The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 27 Issue 663

"In the Heavenlies"

Engagement

by — William B. Hallman (1903-1973)

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

In the three previous sections of this series we have followed the theme "In the Heavenlies" into the realms of edification (1:3), exaltation (1:20; 2:6), and exhibition (3:10). Now, fourthly and finally, we will see the arena of our engagement.

We come, therefore, now into an entirely new realm or metamorphosis which befalls "the Heavenlies." Instead of a spectacle, there is a strife; instead of an exhibition, there is an engagement; instead of a blessing, there is a battle; and, instead of demonstration, there is destruction.

Before endeavoring to expound this passage, it might be well for us to take a look at God's typical people, Israel; that we might see a little more clearly our spiritual analogy in the light of their triumphs.

In the book of Numbers, chapters 20-21, Israel in her march toward Canaan meets two types of enemies. First she is confronted with the Edomites and the Moabites. Both of these are related to Israel by blood. When Edom refused to give Israel passage through his land it says, "wherefore Israel turned away from him" (20:21). Further, she was told,

Meddle not with them, for I will not give you

1. For the previous parts in this series, see: Part1, Bible Student's Notebook #643; part 2, Bible Student's Notebook #654; Part 3, Bible Student's Notebook #659.

of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth (Deuteronomy 2:5).

When she likewise is confronted with the Moabites. God said.

Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle for I will not give thee of their land for a possession (Deuteronomy 2:9).

Here we see the attitude toward the people related to Israel by blood. Our text in Ephesians says: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood." As members of His Body we are not citizens in this world; our citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20). There are all about us brothers in the flesh, but not in the spirit. We are to take the same attitude as Israel did to her blood brothers, not in the line of promise. As Heavenly citizens we have no rights here, we are to "turn away from," "meddle not," and "distress not."

However, in Numbers 21 Israel meets an entirely different enemy. Here is "King Arad, the Canaanite," "Sihon the king of the Amorites" and "Og the King of Bashan." The record says,

They utterly destroyed ... their cities [Canaanites] ... Israel smote him [Sihon] with the edge of the sword and possessed his land from Arnon

unto Jabbok ... So they smote him [Og] ... and they **possessed his land** (:2, 24, 35).

EXPLOITING THE HEAVENLY PLACES

So we, like Israel must fight against the evil forces that have taken possession of "the Heavenlies," our rightful possession "in Christ." As it was said of Israel, "the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32), so may we know the power of our Christ and the purpose of our God "and do exploits" in "the Heavenly places."

As the Lord encouraged Joshua to "Be strong and of courage; for thou shalt cause this people to inherit the land" (Joshua 1:6), so Paul gives the word of encouragement:

Finally, my brethren be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).

The redemption purchased by Christ, as seen in this Epistle, is complete and free; yet between the commencement and consummation of God's work for us there is a protracted conflict. This is not a figure of speech; it is a real and arduous battle, a fight to the finish. Our enemies possessing "the Heavenly places" must be completely routed before we can possess our inheritance.

SUPERHUMAN ENEMIES

The Apostle now reveals the particulars of the struggle, namely that we have superhuman enemies "in Heavenly places" who must be overcome² by our su-

- [Editor:] For more information on "spiritual warfare," see:
 - The Believer's Warfare, Wearing the Armor of Light in the Dark-

perhuman equipment.

Paul gives us the forces which have taken possession of our inheritance and who will defend it. They are designated as:

- Principalities (archas) or governments, princedoms, the organized spirit world;³
- Powers (exousias) or authorities, those who have delegated powers;
- World-rulers of this darkness (kosmokratoras). This world is filled with evil rulers who rule the nations and are heads of all the political, social, economic and religious spheres. They are also called "spiritual wickedness in high places."

Let it be understood that we are battling an organized, mobilized, supernatural force of evil powers headed by the Prince of Evil, Satan.⁴ This is no sham battle. We are not beating the air, not battling a dummy. This struggle is as real as Christ's conflict with evil powers in the Wilderness and the Garden of Gethsemane.

The first description we get of our Arch-enemy is his person. He is characterized by the graphic descrip-

- ness of this World, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form).
- Check Your Panoply: The Whole Armor of God, Herman H. Rocke (see order form);
- The Celestial Conflict, A.E. Knoch (Bible Student's Notebook **#521**).
- 3. [Editor:] For more information on the "spirit world" see:
 - 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, <u>Bible Student's Notebook #520</u>.
- 4. [Editor:] For more information about the creation of evil, Satan and the purpose of sin, see:
 - The Problem of Evil, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), see order form;
 - The "Fall" of Satan, A.E. Knoch, Bible Student's Notebook #547;
 - The King of Tyre, E.H. Clayton, Bible Student's Notebook #569.



Hymns of Praise

Charles H. Welch, Editor

This is an attempt at a dispensationally accurate hymnal, compiled by Charles H. Welch. Quite a number of these hymns, it will be recognized, could only have been written by those acquainted with the results of "Right Division." The song sections do not have noted music, rather they use hymn meters, thus indicating the number of syllables for the lines in each stanza of the song. This allows the matching of a hymn's text with appropriate tunes for singing.

See order form.

tion: "the wiles" (6:11). With this craftiness, subtlety and slyness of the Evil One we get such other names as: Liar, Murderer, Accuser, Apollyon, Destroyer, Beelzebub, Prince of the demons. All of these names are as suggestive as they are repulsive and repellent. Not only his names, but his nature is suggestive of his person. Paul speaks about the "devices" (II Corinthians 2:11), the "snares" (I Timothy 3:7) and in our text "the wiles." He beguiles, seduces, opposes, resists, deceives, sows tares, hinders, buffets, tempts, persecutes, blasphemes and counterfeits.

This revelation of our Arch-enemy is of utmost importance. Unless we clearly see his nature, we shall pay little respect to the armor provided to combat him. The Greek word here translated "wiles" is methodias, and has to do with motives, methods and mastery in the art of deception and destruction.

We must also, in the second place, see the position of our superhuman enemy. He is a "prince" in two localities: in the earth, and in the air. Christ called him "the prince of this world." He is the ruling spirit over "the children of disobedience" (2:2). He has control over the nations and is the mastermind behind the whole system of world government dominated by lust for power, greed, ambition, intrigue, hatred, lies, aggression, rivalry and brutality.

Satan offered Christ the kingdoms of this world, a bona fide offer. Christ did not dispute the claim. He says there is a kingdom of Satan (Matthew 12:26). Thus we wrestle "against the ruler of the darkness of this world." He also has his host of evil spirits in the aerial heavens. He is "the prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2). There is a perfected mass organization of hellish forces working secretly and subtly above the earth.

According to our text he is also "in high places." He is seeking to contain and control our inheritance and is thus our sworn enemy. The text suggests that the evil powers enter into the believer's very realm in Christ to seek to remove him from that high and holy position which he has in Him. The battle is waged in the believer's place and position⁵ "in the heavenlies."

Our superhuman enemies are enemies of great Power. Paul describes their power in four graphic descriptions.

- It is "the power of darkness" (Colossians 1:13). This is of course the opposite of light. We are called the "children of light" (Ephesians 5:8). All of the evils of darkness are at the command of our enemy.
- Satan's working is also in the realm of "lying wonders" (II Thessalonians 2:9). Satan is a "liar" (John 8:44). He has had plenty of time to perfect "wonders" in the realm of falsehood.
- Paul also says that he has "the power of death" (Hebrews 2:14). Destruction is in his hand, and ▶
- 5. [Editor:] For more information on Identification and Union (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;
 - The Believer's Union and Identification in Christ, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Notebook #237;
 - 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).



See order form.

Short Papers: Volume 4

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Chapters:

The Way of Cain (1911) The Serpent of Genesis 3 (1909) Thus He Gives to His Beloved While They Sleep (1898) Mankind's Greatest Revival (1902) Today (1909) Do We Believe God? (1903)

Bodies of Men or the Body of Christ (1904)All Difficulties Removed (1911) Classification of the Psalms (1909) The Fig, the Olive and the Vine (1895) "Sheōl" and "Hadēs" - Their Meaning and Usage in the Word of God (1903) what utter havoc he has brought into this world.

• These evil forces are well fortified and entrenched in their positions of power. Paul further speaks about the "strongholds" of Satan (II Corinthians 10:4), and Jesus speaks of "a strong man armed" (Luke 11:21) and of "spoils" (Luke 11:22).

Who can underestimate the power of our enemy in the light of these revelations? It becomes fatal foolishness to ignore the power of our enemy.

Enemies of such character and conduct have also a definite purpose and plan in their diabolical deceptions and destructions. "We are not ignorant of his devices" (II Corinthians 2:11), for the first time we meet our enemy he is described as being a "subtle serpent" (Genesis 3:1). Satan is a counterfeit, a camouflage. Satan has his "synagogue" (Revelation 2:9). He has his gospel which is "a different [heteros] gospel" (Galatians 1:6) from that of "the gospel of the grace of God." He has his "ministers" who can appear as the "ministers of righteousness" (II Corinthians 11:15). He has "his doctrines," the "doctrines of demons" (I Timothy 4:1). He has his sacrifices, communion table and cup (I Corinthians 10:21).

His whole program and purpose is one of fraud, sham, fake, imposture, cheat, deception and simulacrum.⁶ We battle against all of the cunning craftiness of diabolical darkness, deception and destruction with its headquarters "in the heavenlies." He is behind all of the confusion and chaos in world affairs; all of the appalling apostasy in Christendom; and all of the gilded veneer of man's colossal culture and civilization.

Do we know the subtlety, strategy, and strength of our enemies? Do we believe in the revelation of their position, power and purpose? If so, we shall recognize the nature and the necessity of our spiritual weapons, and their absolute power to overcome our enemy.

THE SPIRITUAL EQUIPMENT

Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand (Ephesians 6:11).

Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand (:13).

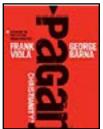
We need equipment both for the defensive, so that we can "stand" (stenai), and also for the offensive, so that we may be able to "withstand" (antistenai). We need both inward stability and outward strategy. Nothing but "the whole armor of God" will do in this battle. Every piece is absolutely important.

We need to be reminded again that our strength in this battle lies in the fact stated in the first verse of our present passage, namely,

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

It is "in the Lord" that we are to be strong for this battle. He, therefore, who rushes into this conflict without continually looking to Christ for strength and regarding himself as a member of His Body, deriving all life and vigor from Him, is demented. He knows not what he is doing.

The Apostle calls this warfare a "wrestle." This has reference to a hand-to-hand encounter. It is a spiritual



Pagan Christianity: Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices

by — Frank Viola & George Barna 293 pp, PB (*See order form.*) Have you ever wondered why Christians do what they do for "church" ev-

ery Sunday morning? Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions: Why do folks "dress up" for "church"? Why does the "pastor" preach a sermon every Sunday? Why are there pulpits and pews? Why "church" buildings, steeples, choirs and seminaries? Where did all of these things come from?

This book proposes that what Christians do in "churches" has no root in the Scriptures! It rather has its origin in pagan culture. As shocking as that sounds, the authors prove their points by documenting every claim they make.

Fully footnoted, *Pagan Christianity* documents the story of modern church practices. If you are content with status quo "churchianity," then you will not want to read this book. It is reserved for those who are ready to embark on an eye-opening venture that challenges every aspect of their church experience.

^{6.} [Editor:] *l.e,* imitation.

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conflict, because it is not "against flesh and blood" but against wiles and strategies that can be met in spiritual encounter.

THE ARMOR

There are seven pieces of armor, each of which is a source of strength and security in warfare. Our defensive weapons, which are five in number, give us inward stability so that we shall be able "to stand." We are to "put on" and "take unto" us "the whole armor of God."

The Girdle of Truth

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth (6:14).

The first defensive weapon is the Girdle of Truth. This is an oriental picture. The easterner must first gird about his loins his long flowing robe before he can undertake any task. The loins are a symbol of strength.

Why "truth" first? Perhaps because the first time we meet Satan he comes as a liar and is "a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). Christ on the other hand is

the "Truth."

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

If Satan is a liar, and he is, then nothing but the truth as revealed in Christ through our lives can gird our loins for strength in the hour of battle.

The truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

With truth, we shall then be free from all bondage and all encumbrance so that we shall be able, with alacrity⁷ and mobility, to wage a winning battle against our foe. Freedom coupled with strength makes for invincibility. Only "truth" can gird our loins of strength and give freedom in combat with our enemy.

The Breastplate of Righteousness

Having on the breastplate of righteousness (6:14).

The next defensive weapon is "the Breastplate of Righteousness." This is the "righteousness" of Philippians 3:9,

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^{7. [}Editor:] I.e., "speed or quickness." — American Heritage Dictionary.



Being found in Him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.

The breastplate covered the body from the neck down to the thighs. The "righteousness" is through the faith of Christ. It is a sure defense against all assaults of the Evil One. This "righteousness" makes us "right," and right is might against the foe. We are therefore to,

Put on the new man which is created in righteousness (Ephesians 4:24).

The Gospel of Peace

Your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace (6:15).

The third part of our defensive weapons is "the Gospel of Peace." Swiftness of foot was an important qualification for the Eastern soldier. Christ "is our peace" (2:14). Satan sows discord among men; he is the instigator of war with its program of hate. The American soldier in World War I wore what was known as "the Pershing Shoe." It gave ease and alacrity to the soldier. Vincent tells us, "The Roman soldier substituted for the greaves of the Greek (metal plates covering the lower part of the leg) the caligae or sandals, bound by thongs over the instep and round the ankle and having the soles thickly studded with nails." The word "preparation" (hetoimasia) means readiness; but in Hellenistic Greek also establishment or firm

foundation. Thus the "Gospel of peace" brings a firm footing.

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace (Romans 10:15).

It is only as we are shod with "the gospel of peace" that we can hope to overcome and be victorious. As we meet trials, temptations and all kinds of trouble, it is only "the peace of God that passeth all understanding" that "shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

The Shield of Faith

Above all, taking the shield of faith,⁸ wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked (Ephesians 6:16).

The next weapon in the defensive category is "the Shield of Faith." The oriental shield was large and shaped like a door, 4½ feet long and 2½ feet wide. Satan's darts are fire tipped arrows, produced for one purpose: to produce distress of mind, depression of



156 pp., PB See order form.

The Real Story of Jesus Christ's Birth

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

by – Paul R. Pontis

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

[[]Editor:] Faith is a gift from God. For more information on faith, see:

Faith: The Gift of God, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Notebook #163;

The Nature of Faith: Is it Really All or Nothing? Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., <u>Bible Student's Notebook #495</u>;

Members of the Ecclesia – Experts Regarding Faith, James R. Coram, Bible Student's Notbook #495;

⁻ Daily Goodies (book), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form):

[•] The Audacity of Faith (May 29);

[•] The Great Adventure of Faith (January 20);

[•] A Personal Prayer of Faith (May 17).

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spirit, disappointment in all of our relationships and, finally, destruction.

Faith is the victory as Hebrews 11 so wonderfully sets forth. As the shield was very mobile and was intended to aid all of the other parts of the armor, so faith is "above all" a most important part of our defensive equipment. It is by faith that we are able to use all of the other weapons against an unseen but real enemy; for, "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Let us then put our faith in the faithfulness of God (Psalms 89:33) and in the finished work of Jesus Christ (John 19:30).

The Helmet of Salvation

Take the helmet of salvation (Ephesians 6:17).

The final defensive weapon is "the helmet of salvation." The helmet is a covering, a protection for the mind. Satan makes a desperate bid for the mind. As he did to Eve so he ever does, sowing the seeds of doubt, delusion, deception, denial and despair into the human mind. Salvation is therefore utterly important as a helmet for a most vulnerable part of our anatomy. Satan tries by a false philosophy (Colossians 2:8) to

overcome the believer. Nothing but the redemption of our mind can overcome his sinister attacks upon our mind. It is therefore incumbent upon us that we cap our heads with "the helmet of salvation." We must let the redemption that is in Christ Jesus captivate our thought life and regulate our thinking at all times.

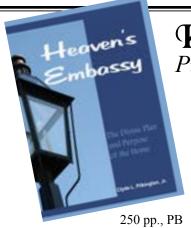
All parts of the defensive armor refer to Christ. He is our girdle of Truth, our Righteousness, our Peace, our Shield, and our Salvation. Thus when we "put on Christ" we are putting on the whole armor of God for our defensive warfare.

The Sword of the Spirit

The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

From the defensive weapons, we turn now to the offensive: "the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God." The Word of God is sharper than any two-edged sword. It combines both the wisdom and the power of God.

The Word of God dissipates all doubt; drives away all fear; and delivers from satanic power. This "Sword ▶



Heaven's Embassy – The Divine Plan and Purpose of the Home

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

See order form.

This book represents many years of work. The author believes that it is one of the most important books that he will ever be privileged to write, simply because it concerns one of the most vital scriptural subjects that could ever be addressed.

The home is central to all of God's dealings with man throughout the course of time. It is His Divine "institution" and "organization" on the earth; for the believer, it is the *Embassy of Heaven*. An embassy is "the residence or office of an ambassador." Since the believer is an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21), his home is thus the *Divine Embassy* of heavenly ministry.

Pauline ministry is centered in the homes of believers. This is even the true sphere of the Body of Christ; for this reason our apostle speaks of "church in thy house." This book doesn't focus on the external specifics of the ministry of Heaven's Embassy (such as hospitality); that will be saved for another volume. Instead, it looks at the inner-workings of the Embassy itself, focusing on its very nature, internal purpose and function.

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of the Spirit" was the only weapon that Jesus used in the wilderness against Satan. He quoted three times from Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 8 when He said, "It is written." Here He was The Representative Man Who won a victory not only for Himself but also for us.

PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit (6:18).

In Ephesians we see the working of the Spirit in four particulars, all of which are important.

- (1) Enlightened by the Spirit (1:17);
- (2) Strengthened by the Spirit (3:16);
- (3) Filled by the Spirit (5:18);
- (4) Praying in the Spirit (6:18).

The only effectual praying is "in the Spirit" -enlight-

- [Editor:] To assist you in your study of the important subject of prayer, see:
 - Unanswered Prayer, C.R. Stam, Bible Student's Notebook #559;
 - Prayer: Continue in and Watch with Thanksgiving, Stuart Allen, Bible Student's Notebook #560;
 - The Prayers of Ephesians, E.W. Bullinger, Bible Student's Press (see order form);
 - Learning to Cry "Daddy!" Stephen Hill, <u>Bible Student's Note-book #401</u>;

ened, strengthened and filled by the Spirit. In Ephesians 4 Paul tells us: first, Give no place to the Adversary (4:27); and then secondly, Grieve not the Holy Spirit (4:30). The antidote to the latter, and the attitude toward the former, are found in the fifth chapter: "Be filled by the Spirit" (5:18).

Knowing the power and purpose of our enemy and having at our disposal access to the weapons of victory, let us go forth to conquer. It is not enough that we rout the enemy; we must also take possession of our inheritance.

(edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Celestials; Ephesians; Spiritual Warfare

Minor: Prayer; Satan; Spirit World

- A Personal Prayer of Faith, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., <u>Bible Student's Notebook</u> #230;
- Prayer, Dan Gross, Bible Student's Notebook #4;
- Prayer, E.W. Bullinger, Bible Student's Notebook #375;
- Prayer Gets Results, Ted Fellows, Bible Student's Notebook #6;
- Praying for God's Will to Be Done, Rick Longva, <u>Bible Student's</u> <u>Notebook #377;</u>
- The Simplicity of Prayer, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Bible Student's Notebook #163;
- Without Wrath, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, <u>Bible Student's Notebook</u> #440.

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Paul Our Guide - Christ Our Goal

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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."

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