



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 36
Issue 879

“Easing Up” on Ourselves and Others

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

To be calumniating no one, to be pacific, lenient, displaying all meekness toward all humanity (Titus 3:2, CV).

“**Calumniating no one**” – “calumniating” is defined as “to slander”;¹

“**Pacific**” is defined as “tending to diminish or put an end to conflict; appeasing; of a peaceful nature; tranquil”;²

“**Lenient**” is described as “of mild and tolerant disposition or effect: not harsh, severe, or strict, exerting a soothing or easing influence: relieving pain or stress”;³ and,

“**Meekness**” is characterized as “softness of temper; mildness; gentleness; forbearance under injuries and provocations.”⁴

Since Adam’s disobedience it has been extremely hard to be human. Well did Job assess the common lot of humanity:

For man to misery is born (Job 5:7, YLT)

We are all born into misery. We are all broken, and despite the many modern “conveniences” and “advances” that are expected to “make life easier,” nonetheless, in other ways they have served only to make life even more difficult, and that, on a whole new level. So, perhaps it has never been harder for humanity to cope with being human, and for that matter, to



cope with the rest of humanity.

There have always been many difficult pressures from *without* and *within*. In our day unique pressures seem to have exasperated humanity in its struggles. From *without* is the overall breakdown of humanity’s most basic coping mechanism – the stable, loving, extended family – with all of its divinely designed interwoven support. From *within*, unprecedented influences have been forced upon us as well⁵ – all to the point that there is little wonder that humanity is managing to get by as well as it is.

Although depression, addiction, homelessness, suicide, etc. – all mere results of human suffering – may be at unparalleled highs, one can only wonder how they are not even higher than they are. In some of the most fundamental ways, life may have become more “unbearable” today than ever – and believers are surely not exempt.

(see *EASING*, last page)

5. We have yet to fully realize the enormous internal effects of such things as: advertising, electricity, frequencies, gases, refined sugars, processed foods, genetically modified foods, chemicals, additives, pharmaceuticals, toxins, etc.

1. Collins Dictionary.
2. American Heritage Dictionary.
3. Merriam-Webster Dictionary.
4. American Dictionary of the English Language (Noah Webster 1828).

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The Status of the Ecclesia as Christ's Complement

by — John H. Essex (1907-1991)

The fact that the Ecclesia is chosen “in Christ” before the Disruption gives it a status of power and authority in the Universe – being the complement of Christ.

We have shown the analogy before, how man and his complement, woman, should parallel the relationship that exists between Christ and His Ecclesia. It should be clear in our minds that God gave a command to Adam to multiply and fill the Earth, but Adam could not do this until his complement, woman, had been taken from him and presented to him. Then he was able to fulfill God's intentions through the one who was his complement.

Without the ecclesia, Christ could not fulfill the purpose of God. That is why God is to have such glory in the Ecclesia as well as in Christ throughout all the

generations of the eon of the eons.

THE ROLE OF THE ECCLESIA IN GOD'S PURPOSE

The woman, the complement of man, has throughout many generations maintained the form of humanity as first created by God. This was the role appointed for her, for the “seed of the woman” was to bruise the head of the serpent, and that Seed must be in the likeness of humanity. So, too, will the Ecclesia, as the complement of Christ, maintain the form of the ministry ordained for it by God “before the eons began.” For our calling is

In accord with His Own purpose, and the grace which is given to us in Christ Jesus before eonian times (II Timothy 1:9).

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- 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 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 (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- 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 and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);

– adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. 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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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the [order form](#).

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It is the grace of God which is the basis of all of the ministry of the Ecclesia; its members will, in fact, display His grace “among the celestials” in the eons to come (Ephesians 2:7).

As members of that composite whole, the Body of Christ, we are seen by God to be “holy and flawless,” and this we have been “in His sight” since the moment of our choice in Christ “before the disruption of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

Yet, as members of humanity, we once walked in sin among the sons of stubbornness and

behaved ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh, and were, in our nature, children of indignation, even as the rest (Ephesians 2:1-3).

Why was this? Why were we, who were predestinated to be sons of God and participants in an allotment that is holy and flawless, ever permitted to walk in accord with the eon of this world, and even in accord with the chief of the jurisdiction of the air?

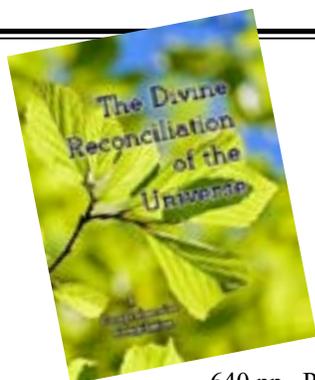
The answer lies in the fact that the full aspect of grace can be displayed by only the members of the Ecclesia, and for them to be able to display it, they must have deserved the opposite. Hence the reason for their being chosen from the sons of humanity.

It was necessary for the Ecclesia to share the experiences of humanity, even as it was necessary for Christ to do so, though the reasons are different. The complement cannot be greater than its Head. *Christ came to be in the likeness of humanity in order to condemn and crucify sin; the Ecclesia came to be in the likeness of humanity in order to display grace.*

TWO COMPLEMENTARY MINISTRIES

The work of Christ, as God’s Complement, is to implement the promise of life, made in Him before eonian times, and therefore before God’s purpose of the eons went into operation (II Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:2). The work of the Ecclesia, as the complement of Christ, is to display God’s grace in accord with the gift of grace, which also precedes eonian times (II Timothy 1:9).

It is a tremendous thought that the ministry of the Ecclesia, like that of the Lord Jesus Christ, was fully determined by God, and provision made for its accomplishment, before He put any other part of His purpose into operation. Indeed, these two ministries – that of Christ, and that of the Ecclesia which is His Body – are thus complementary to each other, and form the basis on which God’s whole purpose is established. That is why God will find glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons.



640 pp., PB

The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: A Comprehensive Compilation

This work does not contend for a mere doctrine; its authors are championing the revealed character of God. The gloomy cloud of theology has obscured Him from us for far too long. Tradition’s chilling mists have cooled our enjoyment of His power, wisdom and grace. Religions have libeled His name, repelling the instinctive responses of our heart. Christianity has left us unable to defend His honor in the presence of His enemies. Now all of this is gone and we are able to vindicate Him in

all His ways before all His creatures! – *Adapted from the Preface*

This ultimate collection of 110 works by 46 authors spans nearly 200 years. It is an extensive compilation that is essential for every library. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, Thomas Allin, Alan Burns, E.H. Clayton, Bob Evelyn, Phillip Garrison, Vladimir Gelesnoff, J.W. Hanson, Joseph E. Kirk, A.E. Knoch, Arthur C. Lamb, Aaron Locker, Adlai Loudy, Andrew Maclarty, R.B. Macnab, Erasmus Manford, H.W. Martin, Robert McLaurine, Robert McMahon, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak, George W. Quinby, William C. Rebmann, F.H. Robison, A.E. Saxby, Hannah Whitall Smith, André Sneider, James Strahan, E.F. Stroeter, Thomas Talbott, Ray Van Dyke, and Peter Woodhouse.

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The work of Christ, as God's Complement, brings life and peace to the Universe; the work of the Ecclesia, as Christ's Complement, will bring about a gracious acceptance of what Christ has done. The Ecclesia is the complement by which Christ is completing the "All in all" (Ephesians 1:23), and thus makes the whole Universe (which is being headed up in Christ) a worthy habitation of God's Spirit. For if God is "All in all," then in the end every creature becomes part of His dwelling place in spirit.

THE GLORY OF OUR ALLOTMENT IN CHRIST

The prospect that lies before the Ecclesia, in its being used so effectively to display His grace, is one that can fill us with only amazement and wonder. Adjectives are quite inadequate to express the glory of it. How can it be considered even remotely possible that we, chosen from sinful humanity, can ever be for the laud of God's glory? Yet it is so, and we have a pre-expectancy in Christ (Ephesians 1:12).

And there is no possible way in which we can be thwarted of our expectation, for the apostle (in 1:13-14) goes on to tell us that, once we hear the evangel of our salvation and believe it, we are sealed in Christ with the holy spirit of promise, and this is an earnest, or a pledge in kind, to us that the eventual enjoyment of our allotment is secure. It has already been procured, and the spirit of promise seals it firmly against any attempt to deprive us of it. This, again, is for the laud of God's glory.

Let us remind ourselves of the words of Paul in Ephesians 1:15-23 (one of the two momentous prayers in this epistle, the other being in 3:14-21). The apostle realized that we shall need all of the wisdom and understanding that our loving Father is able to give us if

we are to grasp and enjoy the glories of the expectation that is ours. He prays that

the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may be giving you a spirit of revelation in the realization of Him, the eyes of your heart having been enlightened, for you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what the transcendent greatness of His power for us who are believing.

All that God is doing in regard to the Ecclesia is in accord with the tremendous power which He used in rousing Christ from among the dead, and exalting Him to a position of authority above all others in Heaven and Earth, whether they be sovereignties, authorities, powers or lordships – whatever they are, none are now above Him, but rather He is over them – and it is in this sovereign capacity that He is given to the Ecclesia, which is His Body, the Complement by which He is completing the "All in all." Thus, there is no power in the Universe which can prevent the Ecclesia, operating in the power of Christ, from carrying out its function in the eons to come, or can deny God the glory which He has purposed to obtain through its ministry.

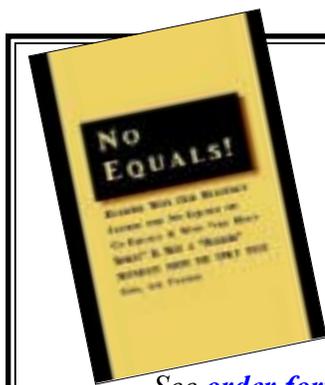
God is dwelling in Christ and in the Ecclesia today; when the work of the Ecclesia is finished, He will be dwelling in all of His creatures, for the "All in all" will be completed. **ESN**

— *God's Dwelling Place* (1978)¹

(abridged excerpt)

(see *STATUS*, next page)

1. Order online from [StudyShelf](#), or see the [order form](#) under "Essex."



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A Matter of Priority

by — Ken Ehrenfeld

To the person who has lost their spark. To the person whose “get up and go” is gone. This is to remind you that you don’t have to be everything to everyone every day – that’s God’s paygrade! You didn’t sign up for that, plus you don’t have the qualifications, anyway.



So, if you have been slowly fading away, my friend, this is the time to start saying “yes” to things that bring you joy, and “no” to things that don’t.

Learn to please the One Who matters and enjoy what He has given you!

Remember when you used to laugh, sing and dance, “throwing caution to the wind”? You know: had fun and actually enjoyed life. Who stole that from you? A good chance it was legalistic, orthodox religion (better known as Christendom).

And remember when you used to forgive yourself more quickly for not always being “perfect”? I bet some weekly denominational preaching featuring “sin, sin, sin” beat you down to the point of always feeling worn out and unworthy, so why even try?

None of this has to mean letting people down or walking away. It just means being kinder to yourself and not feeling condemned to say “no” to legalism, and being brave enough to stop, smell the roses – and rest. If anyone in your life is not okay with that – well, let them go judge somebody else.

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life more abundantly (John 10:10).

It’s really pretty simple; it’s all a matter of priority.

Whom have I in Heaven but You? And on Earth I desire no one besides You. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion (Psalm 73:25-26).

Believe God – *not* religion. **BSN**

(edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Freedom; Joy; Legalism; Peace

Minor: Judgment

STATUS (continued from previous page)

NOTE: This is an ongoing series on *The Pleroma* in the *Bible Student’s Notebook*. To consider what we have already published, see:

- “The Pleroma: A Brief Introduction to the Threefold ‘Complement,’” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [#873](#);
- “Tidbits of Truth: The Pleroma Edition” [#874](#);
- “The Ecclesia as Christ’s Complement,” John H. Essex, [#229](#);
- “The Complement Which Completes,” Frank Neil Pohorlak, [#455](#);
- “God’s Purpose in the Heavens,” Part 2, John H. Essex, [#646](#);
- “The Universal Fullness of Christ,” T. Austin-Sparks, [#728](#);
- “The ‘Mystery’ Ministry of Paul,” (part 6 of 7), Russell H. Schaefer, [#779](#);
- “The Complement of Christ,” John H. Essex, [#819](#);

- “The Secret of His Will,” A.E. Knoch, [#833](#);
- “The Completing of the All in All,” John H. Essex, [#839](#);
- “Breadth and Length and Depth and Height” – The Universal Outlook: Completing Us for the Entire Complement of God, John H. Essex, [#850](#);
- “The Ministry of the Ecclesia,” John H. Essex, [#840](#);
- “The Fullness” (Tidbits of Truth), A.E. Knoch, [#854](#);
- “The Combinant Pleroma,” Mark Peters, [#871](#);
- “The Complement of the Universe,” A.E. Knoch, [#874](#);
- “Adam’s and Christ’s Complement,” John H. Essex, [#875](#).

Topics:

Major: Christ; Ecclesia; Pleroma

Minor: Allotment; Calling; Grace; Hope

Tidbits of Truth #19

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

Divine Choosing Precedes Faith

[To D.R.:] When and what *you* believe is not the *central* issue. Members of the One Body are those who foremost have been “*chosen in Him before the disruption of the world*” (Ephesians 1:4). Faith’s activation and growth is manifested in the *process of time*. Thus, the ultimate issue is not *your* faith,¹ it is His choosing and subsequent calling. Only God knows whom He has *chosen in Christ* –

Having this seal: The Lord knows those who are His (II Timothy 2:19).

Those who “*are His*” – “*chosen in Him before the disruption of the world*” – at some point in time have their “*calling*” activated into the “*One Body*” (Colossians 3:15). It starts with the smallest “*measure of faith*” (Romans 12:3), and grows, being “*revealed – by faith unto faith*” (Romans 1:17), resulting in “*flourishing*” faith (II Thessalonians 1:3, CV).

When a baby is born, no one but God knows if it was “*chosen in Him*.” If they are chosen, it was a completed act – long before they were born – prior to “*the disruption of the world*.” During their lifetime faith will be granted and will, over time, begin to grow.

I. Even though faith is a divine *gift*, it is absolutely God’s possession. Once it is given to an individual, it is relatively “*their*” possession. Thus, we read of Paul’s phrase “*your faith*” seventeen times in his epistles.

You ask:

What do we call the research that God led us in, before coming to the truth on various things? In my case, I knew I had to research something to come to a better understanding and then you can dismiss *e.g.*, Hell, the trinity, free will, etc. What is this called? ...

All is of God, I know nothing is of me, but if God operates acts that I carry out, and I come to a better understanding this way, what is this called?

I call this process *divine activation*.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The *Bēma* (II Corinthians 5:10)

“*The judgment seat of Christ*” (KJV)

“*The dais of Christ*” (CV)

“*The tribunal of the Christ*” (YLT)

[To D.R.:] The *Bēma* (βῆμα) is a future tribunal over which Christ will preside. This judgment will determine the individual allotment of believers during Israel’s Kingdom. Paul wrote concerning it, during the Acts Administration, while he was “*acting as a priest of the evangel of God*” (Romans 15:16). The believers of the *Secret Administration* have no such judgment.

Just and the Justifier

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

The author takes a look at both the Doctrinal and Dispensational aspects of Paul’s foundational epistle to the Romans.

352 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”

⤵ Rather than our allotment being in Israel's Kingdom, we have "the enjoyment of **His** allotment" (Ephesians 1:18).

E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913) reminds us that "we, whose standing in this present *Dispensation of the Mystery* is all of grace, cannot be judged by our works."

He goes on to say,

How can those who are "blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3); who are "chosen in Him before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4); who are "accepted in the Beloved" (Ephesians 1:6); ... who are "perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28); who have been "made meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the holiest of all," in the light of the heavenly Shekinah (Colossians 1:12); who "are complete in Him" (Colossians 2:10); ... how, we ask, can there be necessity for such to appear before "the judgment seat of Christ" to be judged in respect of any imaginable thing whatsoever? Impossible.

Yet all of this wondrous standing, given to us in the riches and glory of His grace, is made of none effect, and is utterly lost to those who force themselves back into a position which obtained in a Dispensation which has passed away.

What despite is thus done to the grace of God! What loss is sustained by the doers thereof! What difficulties are thus created and thrust into the Word of God, and what vain and ceaseless efforts are made to get them out!

Whereas, once we rightly divide the precious "Word of Truth" according to its times and Dispensations, then not only are all of these difficulties removed from the Scriptures, but we are free to learn something of the peace of God and the grace of God; what He has made Christ to be unto us, and what He has made us to be in Him.

— *The Foundations of Dispensational Truth*, pages 122-123
Bible Student's Press (2011 reprint)
(edited excerpt)

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Note: For a larger excerpt of this passage from Bullinger's book, see *An Impossible "Judgment," Bible Student's Notebook #591*.

A Perfect Body for the Christ

[Excerpt:] [In the taking of Eve from Adam and re-joining her as one with him] we have the divine illustration of our union with Christ. Though it seems beyond belief, He is incomplete without us. We were chosen in Him before the disruption and now we become one with Him in redemption. The ecclesia is His complement or fullness. It takes both to make a perfect Body for the Christ. The transcendent nature of this grace can only be absorbed by mature meditation. May we have grace to enjoy it fully!

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
The Building of Woman
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 11 (1920)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [Divine Choosing Precedes Faith:] Calling; Election; Faith [A Perfect Body for the Christ:] Calling; Ecclesia; Plērōma [The Bēma:] Judgment; Judgment Seat of Christ; Mystery

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What an amazing compilation your book on Grace is! [[The Absolute Despotism of Grace](#)] – **Netherlands**

I really appreciated all that you do to equip the Body of Christ. – **MO**

In the recent months I have found real joy in your content on YouTube, through [Biblical Resources](#). I also look forward to reading as many of your books in the years to come. Your understanding of Paul's epistles goes hand in hand with me and my father's understanding. The spiritual blessings we experience today through Paul, are both mind blowing and comforting. With so many distractions in this world

EASING (continued from front page)

Consequently, we desperately need to be kind to ourselves and to each other. We never truly know what deep-rooted struggles – mentally, physically, emotionally, etc. – that others are experiencing, nor do we know what will be, for them, “the last straw,” or conversely, what will be that long anticipated “glimmer of hope.” Instead of being critical and judgmental with the frailty of others, for the many ways that they seek to cope and survive, let us nurture a “*pacific*” and “*lenient*” spirit – empathic⁶ displays of

6. For a further look at empathy, see:

– Empathy: Gateway to Compassion, Tenderheartedness, Kindness, Forbearance, Forgiveness and Acceptance, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #853](#).

at this time, our faith is put to the test every day. Thank God for the revelations of His truths through the apostle Paul! – **Norway**

Your ministry is the greatest blessing of any I have ever seen, and I have been into finding the truth of God since 1979. I was previously a Catholic, but not really practicing as I knew something was wrong with it. Was into eastern mysticism, reincarnation and such till a friend gave me *The Late Great Planet Earth* book by Hal Lindsey in 1979 that got me investigating if the Bible was real or not (no longer a follower of Hal). Needless to say I got hooked (maybe called out) ... – **MI**

Your writings are very clear. I want to thank you. – **NY**

Thank you so much for all the books that you publish. I am enclosing a gift to help you in your work. – **Scotland**

BSN

grace, kindness, gentleness, compassion, acceptance – of unconditional love.

God has all of this under complete control. In His end all will be corrected. In the meantime ease up on yourself, and ease up on others.⁷ **BSN**

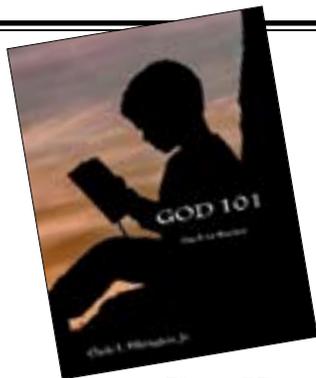
TOPICS:

Major: Empathy; Grace; Peace; Suffering; Trials

Minor: Addiction; Depression; Endurance; Suicide

7. Along these lines, also see:

– “Give Yourself and Others Some Slack,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #272](#).



70 pp., PB.

God 101: Back to Basics

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Sadly, there are some who would teach of a god who somehow does not know all things, is not all powerful, is not sovereign, and is always changing his mind. This may be a god of religion, but it is not the God of Scripture. This work goes back to the basics, back to a scriptural foundation of the True and Living God.

See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington.”