



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 38
Issue 927

God Is Both “Responsible” and “Accountable”

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For *out* of Him, and *through* Him, and *to* Him is *all* (Romans 11:36, BSV)

Key Points:

God alone is responsible and accountable for our actions – both good and evil.....7835 At the judgment, everyone will receive praise from God..... 7836

Years ago, we came to understand and rejoice in the glorious truth of Romans 11:36 that,

- All is out of God.
- All is through God.
- All is to God.

“ALL” – period! These are *absolute* statements – there are no “ifs, ands or buts” about it.

This is what we refer to as the *Divine Cycle*.¹ The knowledge that “all” comes “out” of God, that “all” operates “through” God, and that “all” is returning “to” God settles the weary heart and brings peace to the troubled mind.

However, having been introduced to a supposed distinction between *Divine* “responsibility” and *human* “accountability,” some 20 years ago or so, I have tried to *toe the line*. Yet, my longtime associate André Sneidar has long opposed the assumed difference. After some two decades, I must finally admit that I find myself in full agreement with him.

After all, the English words “responsible” and “accountable” are synonyms of each other.

Read here the definition of “responsible” from *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Lan-*



guage:

Liabile to be required to *give account*, as of one’s actions or of the discharge of a duty or trust ... Required to *render account*; answerable.

While under “accountable” in the same dictionary we read,

Expected or required to account for one’s actions; answerable. See Synonyms at **responsible**.

Jim Coram defines “responsible” as “accountable,” in dealing with the false notion of “free will” when he writes of those who “not only wish to hold men **responsible** (*i.e., accountable or liable*), but wish to claim that men are ‘morally responsible’” – *Unsearchable Riches* (Volume 90, 1999).

If all of our lives were pre-written² by God, and we

God Is Both “Responsible” and “Accountable”	7833
The Day of Christ, The Day of the Lord and The Day of God	7837
The Four Days (chart)	7838
Bible Student's Dictionary: Judgment	7839
Our Mailbox	7839

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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 universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls "my gospel" (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (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."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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could not have done any differently than we have, then how exactly are we “responsible” or “accountable”?

God *alone* is the “responsible” and “accountable” agent in His Universe. Imagined “responsibility” or “accountability” by creatures of their actions carries with it the last vestiges of supposed creature “free will.”³

After all,

God has imprisoned all in disobedience, so that He may have mercy on all (Romans 11:32, HCSB).

God has locked up all mankind in the prison of disobedience so as to have mercy on them all (WNT).

God has made all men prisoners of disobedience so as to have mercy upon them all (GNT).

Since it is God Himself Who created evil (Isaiah 45:7),⁴ mankind’s current condition is simply a God-thing – “*God has ...*” done this. It is God Who has imprisoned us in disobedience. He alone is “responsible” and “accountable.”

Admittedly, that which held me back from seeing this concept were passages that spoke of creatures giving “account” in judgment:

That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment (Matthew 12:36).

*So then every one of us shall give **account** of himself to God* (Romans 14:12).

*... All is naked and bare to the eyes of Him to Whom we are **accountable*** (Hebrews 4:13).

*Who will give **account** to Him Who is prepared to judge the living and the dead* (I Peter 4:5).

Remarkably, in every case, the Greek word translated “account” is *λόγος* (*logos*). People will have occasion to give a *logos* – a “word” – at their “judgment,” and it will be a glorious “word,” as,

... every knee should bow ... and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

Is it mere coincidence that the “account” that everyone shall give to God (Romans 14:12) is the Greek *λόγος* (*logos*)? I think not.

*So each of us gives **word** to Elohim concerning self* (EB).

Although *logos* is a quite common word – appearing 330 times in the Greek Scriptures – it is nonetheless the same word chosen by God to describe His *Master Plan* laid forth from the very beginning.

*In the beginning was the **Logos**, and the **Logos** was toward God, and God was the **Logos**. This was in the beginning toward God. All came into being through it, and apart from it not even one thing came into being which has come into being* (John 1:1-3).



Reader's Question Box:

*A Comprehensive Compilation
(Volume 1)*

This is a collection of the first fifty questions and answers from the Bible Student's Notebook feature by the same name.

191 pp, PB

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

Is it not amazing that this grand

Logos was made flesh and dwelt among us
(John 1:14).

Christ is the Divine Prototype (i.e., “God’s Creative Original,” Revelation 3:14) after which God is building “the new humanity” (Ephesians 2:15; 4:24, CV).

The “account” that we will give will be God’s “Account;” our “word,” His “Word;” our “logos,” His “Logos.”

Is this not the goal of Divine Judgment?

So it is little wonder that in His judgment – the setting of things right –

then shall every man have praise of God (I Corinthians 4:5, KJV).

then, the praise shall come to each one, from God (REB).

And then applause will be coming to each one from God (CV).

TOPICS:

Major: Accountability; Free Will; God; Responsibility; Sovereignty

Minor: Judgment (God’s); Logos

Endnotes:

- [Editor:] For a further look at the Divine Cycle, see:
 - “The Divine Cycle – Romans 11:36” (“Bible Basics” Series #1), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.:
 - [Video](#): (YouTube channel: Biblical Resources)
 - Article: [Bible Student’s Notebook #838](#);
 - Article: “Circularity,” J.E. Jacobsen, [Bible Student’s Notebook #539](#);
 - Article: “All is Out of God,” A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #429](#);
 - Article: “The Pre-Creation Era of the Universe: God Alone – All in God,” M. Jaegle, [Bible Student’s Notebook #644](#);
 - Video: “Romans 11:36,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. & Stephen Hill (YouTube channel – Biblical Resources).
- [Editor:] For a look at the fact that all our days were pre-written in God’s book, see:
 - “All of Our Days Were Written in His Book,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #270](#);
 - “Elohim Has Made All Our Days,” Dean H. Hough, [Bible Student’s Notebook #568](#).
- [Editor:] For more information on supposed human “free will,” see:

- Book:
 - [Divine Lockup and the Myth of Free Will](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (See [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington”)
- Videos
 - “[God Has a Free Will](#)” (*The Scripture Minute*), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (YouTube channel: Biblical Resources)
- Audio
 - “The Myth of Free Will,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Radio #48](#);
- Articles
 - “The Myth of Freewill,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. [Bible Student’s Notebook #243](#);
 - “Free Will,” A.P. Adams, [Bible Student’s Notebook #300](#);
 - “What a Sovereign God Will Do and Will Achieve,” Peter Feddema, [Bible Student’s Notebook #335](#);
 - “God’s Free Will and Man’s Limited Will,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #576](#);
 - “The Election Was Rigged,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #576](#);
 - “Accidents and Disobedience Occur by Divine Appointment,” Jim Coram, [Bible Student’s Notebook #777](#);
 - “The Evil that Came upon Job” (The Book of Job, Part 3), Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student’s Notebook #622](#);
 - “Free Will?,” Joseph A. Freeman, [Bible Student’s Notebook #585](#);
 - “God’s Sovereignty and Christ’s Will” (Reader’s Question Box #55), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #850](#);
 - “God’s Will and Man’s Will,” Jack E. Jacobsen, [Bible Student’s Notebook #840](#);
 - “God’s Will Operates Everything” (Tidbits of Truth #15), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #872](#);
 - “God Alone Has Free Will,” André Sneidar, [Bible Student’s Notebook #893](#);
 - “The Placer and Subjector,” W.B. Screws, [Bible Student’s Notebook #753](#);
 - “The Delusion of Free Will,” (Even Some of Your Own - Editor’s Desk), Sam Harris, [Bible Student’s Notebook #912](#).

- [Editor:] “Evil and sin are not intruders invading the Universe contrary to the intention of God” (Donald G. Hayter: 1911-1988). “Evil serves a Divine purpose” (Arthur P. Adams: 1847-1920). “Evil is the necessary foil for the display of God’s glory” (John H. Essex: 1907-1991). “The desire to see the origin of evil in Satan is a deep-seated denial of the absolute Deity of God” (M. Jaegle). “There can be only one First Cause, and He must be answerable for what He creates” (William H. Walker: 1840-1924). “God ushered evil into the world, and He will escort it out when it has accomplished His purpose” (Frank Neil Pohorlak 1907-1988).

For an in-depth look at the subject of evil, see the following

Books:

- [The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan](#) (see [order form](#) under “Compilations”);
- [The Problem of Evil](#), A.E. Knoch (see [order form](#) under “Knoch”);
- [The Mystery of Evil](#), Joseph Williams (see [order form](#) under “Other Authors”).

Audio

- “Who Created Evil?,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Radio #12](#).

Video

- “[God Created Evil](#)” (*The Scripture Minute*), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., YouTube channel: Biblical Resources.

The Day of Christ, The Day of the Lord and The Day of God

by — Dr. C.E. McLain (1909-1990)

At the outset, lest there be any misunderstanding, may we say with all clarity that we are “pre-millennial” in our belief. That is, we believe that Christ will return in bodily presence BEFORE the millennium. But by the same token, may we say with equal force that all aspects of His coming in whatever degree are, and will remain, in abeyance UNTIL all nations are brought into subjection under Him.



THE DAY OF CHRIST (Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16)

By and large, most Christians identify this day with “*The Day of the Lord*.” On the surface, this is understandable, inasmuch as both “*The Day of Christ*” and “*The Day of the Lord*” have to do with Christ’s role as Ruler. However, the likeness does not admit sameness, for there is a clear-cut distinction between the two.

The Lord said unto my Lord, “Sit thou on My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool” (Matthew 22:44).

Therefore, the coming of Elijah, the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, the government of the heavens, the restoration of Israel, etc., must be faced. These facts can no longer be ignored, nor can anyone set them aside by saying, “They are a problem,” and yet continue to teach otherwise.

To say the least, the popular “any moment” theory of traditional, pre-millennial teaching will no longer prevail in the hearts of those who are not programmed with the wish.

On the one hand, in “*The Day of Christ*” Christ rules from the heavens (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:44, etc.). Moreover, at least at the outset, His rule appears more gracious in this period of time than the rule in “*The Day of the Lord*” (Malachi 4:5-6; Joel 2:17-18, 20; Micah 4:1-5; Acts 3:19).

On the other hand, in “*The Day of the Lord*” His rule has to do with His personal bodily presence on Earth. Not only so, but His rule is called a “*a rod of iron*” (Revelation 19:15-16; 20:4). Both periods, of course, are the Kingdom (government) of God, even though the one is administered from the heavens [“*the Kingdom of the Heavens*”], whereas the other is administered from Earth.



God’s Truths Recovered: Beyond the Reformation

by – Daniel Russino

God’s Truths Recovered is a study manual which covers such topics as: The eons and their importance; eternity; Satan; evil; administrations; rightly dividing the word; the gospel of the circumcision and uncircumcision; the church; book of Acts; Paul’s epistles; salvation; justification; reconciliation; maturity in Christ; human traditions; baptism of the holy spirit; born again; new creation; the body and bride; trinity; spiritual gifts; gifts for today; healing; suffering; reigning; revealed secrets; Israel’s future; your future; God’s unconditional love; the Deity; hell; lake of fire; death; pagan philosophy; immortality; soul; second death; resurrection; vivification; judgment; great white throne; secret of Christ and more. 8-½ x 11 format.

286 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under “Other Authors.”

Perhaps we should add that the rebuilding and restoration of Babylon in “*The Day of Christ*,” as a major economic and religious center, solves many interpretative problems, which hitherto have been either ignored or explained away (Zechariah 5:6-11; Isaiah 48:20; Jeremiah 51:1-10, etc.). Suffice it to say that this merger of Jewish and Arab interests would flow from an evil spirit.

It is, therefore, the revolt against Christ’s gracious restraints in the appearance of permanence which sets the tone for the transitional happenings recorded in the book of the Revelation and the merging of the two days (cf. Psalm 2; Matthew 24; etc.). This in turn is introductive and preparatory to the Millennium.

“THE DAY OF THE LORD”

(Isaiah 2:12-21; 13:6, 9; Ezekiel 13:5; Joel 1:15; 2:1; 3:14; Amos 5:18; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7, 14; Zechariah 14:1; I Thessalonians 5:2; II Thessalonians 2:2; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:10)

The revolt which concludes “*The Day of Christ*” ushers into being a false peace, a peace that falters with heaven’s judgment (The Great Tribulation). Immediately after the tribulation, like lightning, our Lord, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, in bodily form, descends from out of the Heavens.

His coming to Earth at long last establishes a righteous government. His rule with a rod of iron assures His scepter for a thousand years. A little season follows, and Satan energizes his last revolt against God, after which He is cast into the Lake of Fire. The present Earth and the atmospheric Heaven are renovated by fire. The Great White Throne judgment of God weighs man in the final balance. The ending of this period demonstrates beyond all question the inability of any created being, regardless of stature, ever to consist apart from Christ Jesus.

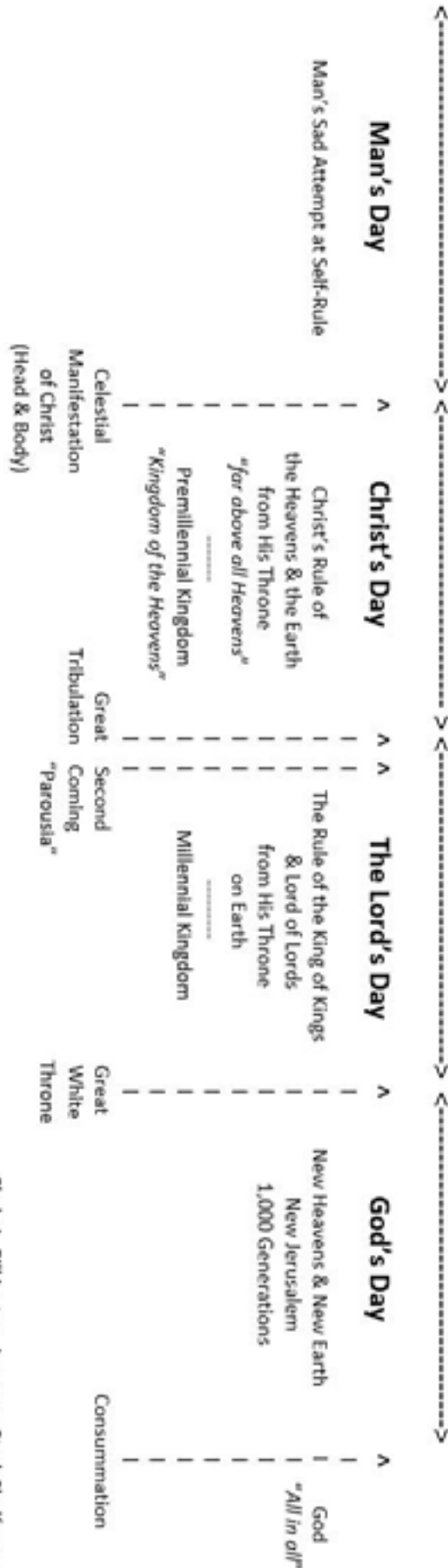
“THE DAY OF GOD”

(II Peter 3:12; Revelation 16:14; 21-22)

“*The Day of God*” is the new beginning, the new Heavens, and the new Earth, fresh from the hand of God. In that day, God shall wipe away all tears, and there will be no more sorrow. It is the day in which the city whose

(see **DAYS**, last page)

The Four Days



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. www.StudyShelf.com



Bible Student's Dictionary

Judgment

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

JUDGEMENT

Judgement, Judging

κρίσις (*krisis*)⁴⁸

G2920

A critical period of time, decisive moment, turning point [cf. Arthur P. Adams, *Judgment*, 1885; Jack E. Jacobson, *The Concept of Circularity*, page 36].

The Greek word *krisis* is where we get our English word "crisis." The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines "crisis" as "a crucial or decisive point or situation; a turning point." Thus, divine judgment is the Divine Crisis in God's creation. It is not punitive, but remedial – the Divine Corrective (*kolasis*) – the

righting of all wrongs. It is the glorious and welcomed process of Divine Justice (*dikaio sunē*). Hence, *krisis* is the divinely appointed "turning point," leading toward God's unmovable purpose of being "All in all" (I Corinthians 15:28).

Don't be amazed at this, for the hour is coming, when all who are in the graves will hear His voice, and will come out; those who have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, unto the resurrection of judging (John 5:28-29, BSV). **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Bible Student's Dictionary; Crisis; Judgement; *Krisis*
Minor: Correction; Consummation; Sovereignty



I just wanted to touch base with you. I am in the Corinthians epistles now, and I am continuously reminding myself that Paul is acting as a priest to the Gentiles.¹ I thought it also interesting that Apollos was a Jew and teaching according to his knowledge from Pricilla and Aquila, which their understanding came from Paul. I liked the farm analogy, one plants,

one irrigates, and God grows up.

With my different perspective of Paul acting as a priest, I am highlighting different passages than my previous study in Corinthians. I think I am going to get a new highlighter of a different color to indicate my new realizations of Paul's place in his evangel. – **IN**

I can't tell you how much I appreciate all the books you put out for us to read. They are like gold! – **CO**

I have read these [Daily Email Goodies](#) for quite a few years now. Thank you for your consistency. I have been discussing with my family lately how to live a quiet and peaceable life as Paul spoke of. Keep it coming, brother! You ARE making a difference. I'm proof. I am looking for more riches every day. – **FL**

I am loving what Father is doing! The [Sonship](#)² book may be a nice complement to [Nothing Will Be Lost](#).³ I remember how confident Paul was of God working

(see **MAILBOX**, next page)

2. See this book on the [order form](#) under "Compilations."

3. See this book on the [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."

1. Paul's early ministry was a prophetic, priestly ministry to the members of the nations (Romans 11:13; 15:16), which purpose was to provoke Israel to emulation (Romans 11:14). During this time Israel had the preeminence (Romans 3:1), with Gentile believers as guests at their table (Ephesians 2:12, 19), partakers of Israel's "spiritual things" (Romans 15:27), as a wild olive branch grafted into Israel, partaking of the root and fatness of the olive tree (Romans 11:17-18), spiritually "Abraham's seed" (Galatians 3:29), with Jerusalem as their "mother" (Galatians 4:26), etc. For a look at the subject of Paul's priestly ministry, see the book:

– [Paul's Priestly Ministry: A Compilation](#) (see [order form](#) under "Compilations").

DAYS (continued from page 7838)

maker and builder is God [New Jerusalem] will be present on Earth. The city, its foundation, the walls, its gates, its streets, its trees, its rivers, and its inhabitants, etc., all are clearly unveiled in Revelation 21-22. **BSN**

— *Elijah's Coming*, pp. 12, 17-20

(edited excerpt)

Clifford E. "Mac" McLain was born in Blanchard, OK. He received a Bachelor of Theology degree from Atlanta Bible Institute and later his Doctor of Divinity from Trinity Bible Seminary in Atlanta.

Dr. McLain founded Grace Institute of the Bible in Oklahoma City, and co-founded with Ben McCammon the Northside Bible Church in 1966. He was also host of the radio program, "What's the Question?" He had also been an associate of E.F. Webber (1893-1959), David F. Webber (1931-2004), and Noah W. Hutchings (1922-2015) of the Southwest Radio Church.

Author of several books, including *Rethinking the Acts* and *Elijah's Coming*, McLain's principal emphasis was on the calling of Ephesians 3:9: "To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery." Consequently, his ministry focused on the Apostle Paul's epistles written after Acts 28:28 – what he called the "Mystery" letters.

Other writings of McLain in previous *Bible Student's Notebook* issues:

- "The Pre-Millennial Kingdom" #855;
- "Romans Is Foundational and Introductory to Ephesians" #738;
- "The New Covenant and the Revelation of the Mystery" #689;
- "Our Homeland" #739.

[**Editor:**] "The Bible speaks of four different days in the sense of long periods of time. Each one of these days marks a separate and distinct period of time. These are not meaningless expressions. They are: (1) 'Man's Day,' (2) 'The Day of Christ,' (3) 'The Day of the Lord,' and (4) 'The Day of God.' The good workmen will identify the four days, and then 'rightly divide' them (II Timothy 2:15)." – Tom L. Ballinger

For more information on these four days, see:

- "Four Great Days (With Special Emphasis on "the Day of Christ")," Tom L. Ballinger, *Bible Student's Notebook* #901;
- "An Overview of Events from Greek Scripture" (Editor's Desk), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student's Notebook* #705;
- "Three Chronological Stages of the Prophetic 'Kingdom of God' on the Earth," David R. Hettema, *Bible Student's Notebook* #745.

TOPICS:

Major: Day of Christ; Day of God; Day of the Lord; Millennium; Premillennial Kingdom
Minor: Babylon; Four Days; Great Tribulation; New Jerusalem

MAILBOX (continued from previous page)

in the Philippians. The wonderful love and work constantly showing forth thrills my heart. You are such a gift to all. – **AL**

was exactly what I needed to hear right now. I've been focusing too much on the evil in the world. I want to be an expert in goodness. – **PA**

BSN

Today's Daily Email Goodie [[Naïve Concerning Evil](#)]⁴

4. This is also available in the "Editor's Desk" of [Bible Student's](#)

[Notebook #756](#) (p. 647).



A Look at Alcohol in the Scriptures

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

[God brings forth] wine which makes man's heart glad (Psalm 104:15).

Wine was a blessing in Scripture (Proverbs 3:10), something to be received gratefully from God (Psalm 104:15). Like many things that God has graciously given to man, alcohol can be used or abused.

However, it is important that we do not confuse use with abuse, or drinking with drunkenness. To prohibit the use of alcohol, by pointing to verses about its abuse, would be like condemning the eating of food because of gluttony, or requiring sexual abstinence because of carnal sins. This is deceptive and erroneous religious reasoning.

This study briefly surveys alcohol related Hebrew and Greek words and some of their contexts, considers passages usually used to condemn the use of alcohol, and looks at a few common objections.

54 pp, PB

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