



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume 40  
Issue 1000

# 1000<sup>th</sup> ISSUE!

## *Does God's Love for Humanity Extend Beyond the Grave?*

### **Bible Student's Courses**

Course 1: God / Unit 3: The Love of God /

Lesson 7: Does God's Love for Humanity Extend Beyond the Grave?

by — Mark D. Vogt

*Love never ends* (I Corinthians 13:8, HCSB).

On the surface the question before us may appear silly until one considers Christianity's teaching on the subject. Certainly, most proclaim the reach of God's love beyond the grave, but this love is reserved only for those who have "taken Jesus as their Savior," "prayed the sinner's prayer," or done any number of things that the religious system requires for a person to have a right relationship with God.

Christianity ties God's love to a religious performance system which is *unscriptural* for the "*Administration of the grace of God*" in which we live (Ephesians 2:8-9; 3:2, CV).

Thankfully, God's love and care for His creation is never ending, reaching far beyond death and the grave. Neither pose the slightest hindrance to His love, or to the completion of His purpose and plans, for they both are actually part of the destiny in Christ that He has planned for ALL of



His sentient creatures (I Corinthians 15:28).

Religion would have you think that death is final, and that everything is "set in stone" from the point of death onward. The idea is that God is somehow constrained by death, and that He is thus powerless to do anything after death, even though He really wants to. If this were true, death would leave God impotent.

Yet Scripture denies this, for Revelation 21:4 declares,

*... death will be no more ...* (CV).

(see *BSC*, last page)

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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 unpropheesied, 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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## Editor's Desk

### 1000<sup>th</sup> Issue of the *Bible Student's Notebook*!

**34 YEARS AGO**, in the spring of 1989 we wrote, laid out, printed and mailed the first issue of the *Bible Student's Notebook*.<sup>1</sup> We never imagined the day that we would release the 1000<sup>th</sup> issue, or of the journey that would have brought us here. Would we have been so intimidated by such prospects that we never may have begun?

As printed on the masthead of every issue, the main thrust of the *BSN* has always been to be “the Herald of His Grace.” In that very first issue we laid out our purpose, attitude and goal. Here is what was written in the editorial.

#### PURPOSE

It is our belief that every voice that can speak out for God's glorious grace needs to! The message of Paul's distinct ministry must go out as far and as wide as possible.

#### ATTITUDE

We have no corner on truth, nor does anyone else. None possesses “all truth” infallibly. Therefore, we seek to fellowship with all those who love the Lord Jesus Christ and take pleasure in His precious Word.

1. The first issue of the *BSN* was mailed to a mailing list of over 3000 to 38 states and 13 foreign countries. Before it went exclusively digital, we would have distributed over 100,000 copies of the *BSN* through the mail. What began as an occasional periodical became a weekly in December, 2007.

We agree with the words of George Whitefield (1714-1770), when he said,

I truly love all that love the glorious Emmanuel, and though I cannot depart from the principles which I believe are clearly revealed in the Book of God, yet I can cheerfully associate with those that differ from me, if I have reason to think that they are united to our common Head.

We desire to avoid destructive “uniformity” and allow for differences of opinion. We don't expect our readers to agree with everything that will appear within the pages of this publication, but we do trust that you will study out the information and that it will stimulate further Bible study. As one editor has so well said,

I hope anyone following after me will go further than I have gone in the search for truth, will see more of the Word of God than I have seen, and will explore where I never dreamt treasures were to be found.

— Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999)  
*Scripture Research* (Volume 3, Number 5)

So do not be surprised if, from time to time, you read articles which reflect change from previous things which we have said or written. This is progress. We simply ask that you keep an open Bible and an open mind. Many of our articles will appear, in some degree, in outline form. You are challenged to “give them meat.”

#### GOAL

It is our goal to bring that which we believe will be of benefit to the Body. We may not fully agree with all of the doctrines or practices of every contributing



### *The Ages (A Comprehensive Compilation)*

To know and understand “*the ages*” is to embrace God's design from beginning to end. This vital work's authors include: Arthur P. Adams (1847-1920), Thomas Allin (1838-1909), Leon A. Bynoe (1895-1983), Edward Henry Clayton (1887-1972), E. Lynwood Crystal (1872-1946), John Dokas, Bob Evely, Joseph E. Kirk (1904-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988), André Sneidar, Alexander Thomson (1889-1966).

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



writer, yet we do wish to forbear one another in love (Ephesians 4:2).

## A PASSION FOR THE SCRIPTURES

I am truly amazed by these words from over three decades ago. By God's grace, this initial purpose, attitude and goal has continued. We began with a passion for the Scriptures, and it has been that drive that has been our compass for the last 34 years. That passion, and this periodical, has remained at the core of our life's work.

## PREDECESSORS OF THE BSN

Before beginning the *Bible Student's Notebook*, we published four other periodicals:

*The Biblical Standard* (weekly 1976-1980)  
*The Old Paths* (occasional 1981-1985)  
*Forgotten Truths* (weekly 1986-1989)  
*Grace Testimony* (occasional 1986-1995)<sup>2</sup>

## THANKFULNESS FOR OUR JOURNEY

The BSN has chronicled our journey into truth. Over the years of Scripture study, we have been led to great changes of understanding. Here are a few of the foundational transitions in realization that have been made over the decades:

- (1) Our Father is active in His Universe and is "*operating ALL in accord with the counsel of His will*" (Ephesians 1:11).

2. This was an outreach periodical, printed on newsprint, with the first issue having a printing of 20,000 copies, the second issue 15,000, etc.

- (2) We are clay in the hand of the divine Potter – "*Has not the Potter power over the clay?*" (Romans 9:21).
- (3) "*We are His workmanship*" (Ephesians 2:10); "*We are His achievement*" (CV); "*We are God's own handiwork*" (WNT).
- (4) We are therefore "*confident of this very thing, that He Who has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*" (Philippians 1:6).
- (5) We know that, "*for us, who love God, who are the called according to His purpose, there is an awareness that He is working all together for good*" (Romans 8:28, BSV).

## THANKFULNESS FOR OUR READERS

More than anything else, Father has made this a *journey together* with our readers – one that could not have been made without their faithful encouragement and support, and without which we may have been celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> issue instead of our 1000<sup>th</sup>. Through you, Father has made it a joint-labor to go on – and in all of the material printed, it has been with conscious thoughts of you.

Thank you,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.  
*The Pilkington Abbey*  
Paint, PA



### TOPICS:

**Major:** Bible Student's Notebook; Editor's Desk  
**Minor:** Thankfulness



44 pages

See [order form](#) under  
"Mackintosh."

## The Church's Heavenly Character

by — Charles Henry Mackintosh (1820-1896)

During the greater part of the nineteenth century, there lived and labored in Great Britain a true and devoted servant of God, Charles Henry Mackintosh (1820-1896). He was one of the early Brethren, commonly called Plymouth Brethren. His chief writings are found in the six-volumes *Notes on the Pentateuch*, and the six-volumes *Miscellaneous Writings of C.H.M.* He never used his name in connection with his writings and to most of his readers he is known only by his initials "C.H.M." In 1850 he wrote a series of papers on *The Life and Times of Elijah*. In the final paper of this series under "Concluding Remarks" we find a strong testimony in confirmation of the unique ministry of Paul. This section is reprinted here as *The Church's Heavenly Character*. – Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)



# Enlightened Eyes

## Part 4 of 4

by — J. Blake Botner

... The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints ... (Ephesians 1:18).

### Key Points:

There was a portion of creation in place prior to the establishment of the Garden of Eden.....8423  
Our coming immortality was a secret kept from all of

creation.....8424  
We have a distinct advantage in that we now possess the completed Word of God.....8424

As stated earlier, it is of great value to understand what God is doing *now*. Again, there is the looming burden and fear of our mortality. Often it is difficult to understand why God would be so good to us. Why would He give to me such a high calling in Christ? Dare I hope to be lifted to such a position? What is the “catch” to be freely given such a *celestial hope* as joint-heirship with Christ?



beginning of Scripture is the making of the Earth: the creation of man and a habitat for mankind, the creatures in the sea, the creatures upon the land, the creatures in the air, and the lush foliage with which to exchange carbon monoxide for oxygen, the vast oceans, the warming sun, the reflective illumination of the moon, and the cleansing process of evaporation all set the stage for God to bring the Kingdom of Heaven down to Earth in a glorious display of blessing and power *for humanity* – blessing and power that will be vested in the chosen nation of Israel and brought to full fruition in the future coming ages.

Look once again at the simple chart<sup>1</sup> in part two of this series. Notice in the chart that the original creation of the cosmos included only the celestial beings as the residents of heavenly places. Before you dismiss the idea of there being a portion of creation in place prior to the creation of man, try to remember places in Scripture where you learn of heavenly places. There are not too many of them (e.g. Job 38:4-7). In fact, you really don't think in terms of there being a residency out in the cosmos, because the issue starting from the very

If I asked you if you are “going to heaven,” what would your response be? “I sure hope so?” Or maybe, “I sure know so!”

The idea that there was a portion of creation in place prior to the establishment of the Garden of Eden and the creation of man was thought by some to be an attempt at *refuting the idea of evolution*. This is true,

1. [Editor:] See the chart in *Bible Student's Notebook* 996.



## Dispensational Truth or The Place of Israel & the Church Which Is His Body in the Purpose of the Ages

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

First published in 1912, this was the author's first full length book. The author exhibits how the Bible reveals the purposes of God, which are seen to have earthly as well as heavenly implications that need to be carefully compared with traditional doctrines.

263 pages

See [order form](#) under “Welch.”

because the amount of time between the original creation of the cosmos (Genesis 1:1), the “without form and void” effect of “*spiritual wickedness in high places*” (:2), and the recreation of the Earth as stated (:3-31), in no way supports the teaching of evolution.

Rather, the “gap” of Genesis 1:2 gives insight into the *ancient ones* who occupy the heavenly places. The celestial immortal beings are ancient in contrast to mortal humanity. In fact, the recreation of the Earth and our solar system (:3-31) provided the sun and moon whereby humanity could mark the passing of the limited time they have – limited time that is the inherent definition of mortality. By missing the realization of the creation of the *original heavenly places*, with their celestial citizenry, many feel the need to defend a limited understanding of all of creation by limiting the actual time that all of creation has been in existence, and tethering *all of creation* to the time when Adam shows up. Typically, this defense is to hold to the six to eight thousand years that have transpired since the creation of man as the *entirety of all created matter and the ensuing time progression*. That is not so. There is more going on than just mankind.

I remind you here of the existence of the evil principalities and powers who considered themselves the winners at Calvary. They thought they had won when Christ died (cf. I Corinthians 2:8); yet they were unaware of the power wrought in Christ when God raised Him from the dead, power that assured for us, as joint-heirs with Christ, a *future elimination of mortality*. The advantage that “*spiritual wickedness in high places*” held as *immortals* was defeated in an open show at Calvary (Colossians 2:15).

*Our coming immortality, as the very next ones (second only to Christ) to experience literal immortal resurrection power, as well as the resurrection power to all of creation to ensure that nothing will be lost, was a mystery kept secret from creation, especially the celestial beings.* The Old Testament saints had faith that they would live again to experience unfulfilled promises, but they could not yet understand the resurrection empowerment and far reach of Calvary. The life, death and resurrection of Christ had not yet taken place, and its full impact had not yet been revealed.

*We now have a distinct advantage in that we possess the completed Word of God (Colossians 1:25).* We do not need to contend with life’s burdens in ignorance of the full revelation of God’s will for creation. This understanding is the source of gravity for your life; peace for your life; grace for your life – grace that you extend to yourself first, which in turn allows you to extend it to those with whom you interact.

Paul was commissioned to reveal this mystery and, with the fulfilling of Scripture contained in the books of Ephesians and Colossians, he revealed the far reach of Calvary all the way out into the heavenly places. The power of Calvary reaches all things whether they be things in Earth or things in Heaven. Our destiny in Christ to occupy the heavenly places was a secret that was withheld from “*spiritual wickedness in high places*.” Think about that for a while and realize your true vocation.

*For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things*

(see **ENLIGHTENED**, last page)



## Bible Student's Notebook

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Published since 1989, the later issues contain our most recent understanding of biblical issues. Therefore when ordering volumes of the BSN we would encourage you to order the latest volumes and work your way backwards.



[Affliction, Trials and Suffering](#)<sup>1</sup> is a GREAT book! As a matter of fact, in my “book,” all of your available books are great! Thoughts of generations of believers captured on paper! I eagerly look forward to move on to my next adventure, learning about Father and His great love for us! ...

I so appreciate the [Study Shelf](#) ministry. The true God has now become SO BIG, so majestic, and so much more wondrous in my understanding! Thank you, brothers, yours is an undertaking that truly has left an imprint on my life. – **NE**

*Concerning God's Sovereignty* (by André Sneidar) [[Bible Student's Notebook 939](#)] is spot-on in my mind and understanding. God's sovereignty is indeed the basis of ABSOLUTES. The “blinded” always challenge absolutes that they CANNOT understand, a human trait endowed by, and in the wisdom of, our sovereign Father for the benefit of the fulfillment of His Will. Thank you for your sincere desire for truth. – **IN**


J. Blake Botner's series *Enlightened Eyes* is really outstanding. It encapsulates Father's complete plan for His entire creation. It's truly WONDERFUL in content, enlightenment, organization and delivery! This would obviously make a wonderful book! “Thank you, Father!” – **SD**

1. Available on the [order form](#) under “Compilations.”

I enjoy your books and the [Daily Email Goodies](#). I came to believe in Universal Reconciliation about two years ago. ... I am an elder in my church, but find myself a student and learner when it comes to UR. I have been a teacher of Israel who “*knew not these things*” (John 3). I need chariot riders to ride along and open up the Scriptures to me (Acts 8). – **OK**

I think since the summer Father has been making grand steps toward making me more mature. I'm starting not to worry, even about the things that should or would have worried me in the past. I just think, “If He wants me to know the answer, He'll give it to me,” and “If He wants me to do anything else than what I feel like doing, He'll make sure I want to.” I rest in Him, and His ability. This does not remove the fact that I still have questions, but it brings me peace. – **The Netherlands**

I've been reading through your newest compilation work, [Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Program](#), and at the same time listening again to your talks from the [Birmingham conference](#).

I am so grateful for the work you did putting that all together. There's a remark you made about Bullinger's note in the [Companion Bible](#) where he identifies a prophecy that doesn't fit into either of the two traditionally acknowledged kingdom stages, but that he isn't able to go further than saying he didn't know where to put it. I think I would have perpetually been in the same situation if it wasn't for your research and outreach. If I didn't have a place to “put” a verse, I previously just set it aside and moved on. Now I read everything and think critically about where it belongs. ... Thank you again for your ministry and for making all these rare truths accessible and easy to comprehend. – **South Korea** 



50 pages

## Anglo-Israelism: Refuse the Refuse!

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

Paul was a real Israelite. There was no question of his “identity.” He could name the tribe from which he sprang. He was not “lost” in regard to his physical descent. The burning question is, What advantage was it to him? How did it affect his relation to Christ? What use did he make of it? What value did he place upon it? The answer is all contained in this one word – “refuse!”

See [order form](#) under “Knoch.”

**BSC** (continued from front page)

Paul plainly tells us in I Timothy 2:4 that God,

*wills that **all** mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (CV).*

Then Paul, in that same letter to Timothy, declares that we rely on the living God Who is in fact “the Savior of **ALL** mankind.”

*Faithful is the saying and worthy of all welcome ... that we rely on the living God, **Who is the Savior of ALL mankind**, especially of believers (4:9-11).*

This doesn't say that a “portion of mankind,” or even “most of mankind,” but “**ALL** mankind” **WILL** be saved.

“**ALL**” means “**ALL**.”

That death is no barrier to God was dramatically demonstrated by the resurrection of Christ. Thus, Paul declares,

**ENLIGHTENED** (continued from page 8424)

*unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in Earth, or things in Heaven (Colossians 1:19-20).*

*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; and having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it [Calvary] (Colossians 2:14-15).*

**POSTSCRIPT**

As mortal humans we now know that we have gone

*For, to this end, Christ died and lived, in order that, **both of dead and living**, He might have Lordship (Romans 14:9, REB).*

*Wherefore, also, God highly exalts Him, and graces Him with the name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterranean, and every tongue should be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, the Father (Philippians 2:9-11, CV).*

There are absolutely no obstacles for God's love, not even death.

*Neither death nor life ... will be able to separate (Romans 8:38-39, CV).*

Therefore, Paul boldly proclaimed that divine “love never ends” (I Corinthians 13:8, HCSB). **BSN**

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Death; God, Love of; Salvation of All  
**Minor:** Resurrection; Sovereignty

from being the weakest of creation, in God's management organizational chart, to being seated in the highest Heaven as *eternal joint-heirs* with Christ our Head. What do you possess in your life that even comes close in comparison to having *enlightened eyes* that can rest in this understanding?

**BSN**

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Calling; Celestials; Ecclesia; Enlightenment; Sovereignty  
**Minor:** Creation; Death; Grace; Mortality; Mystery; Resurrection



## Prehistoric Creatures:

### Chosen in Christ Before the Disruption of the World

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This is a brief look at our place in God's plan: one that pre-dates “the disruption of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

37 pages

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