



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41
Issue 1002

"The Complement of the Nations"

Romans 11:25

by — De L. Trefethen

Key Points:

In Acts and Romans, while Jewish and Gentile believers were doctrinally equal in faith, Jews held a superior dispensational standing, with Gentiles being subservient.....8435
The inclusion of Gentiles, symbolized by the olive tree in Romans 11, was initially to provoke Israel but they rejected Christ

and His message.....8437
In the current era of Absolute Grace, Jewish and Gentile believers are fully reconciled into one body, with no distinction and equal access to God's promises.....8439
All Israel will be saved - along with everyone else.8439

Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. (Romans 3:28-30).



ings.¹ The believers from the nations who were grafted² into Israel were, in that era, subservient to the Jewish believer. In that dispensation the Jew was first.³ In fact, we should see that the DISPENSATIONAL change in standing from the Acts dispensation ("the Jew first") to our DISPENSATIONAL standing in the "YET NOW"⁴ Secret Administration⁵ is to our advantage.

(continued on page 8437)

The truth am I telling in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifying together with me in holy spirit, That my sorrow is great, and unintermittent pain is in my heart -- for I myself wished to be anathema from Christ -- for my brethren, my relatives according to the flesh, who are Israelites, whose is the sonship and the glory and the covenants and the legislation and the divine service and the promises; whose are the fathers, and out of whom is the Christ according to the flesh, Who is over all, God be blessed for the eons. Amen! (Romans 9:1-5).

1. [Editor:] For more on the difference between "Doctrinal" and "Dispensational" Truth, see Charles H. Welch's lead article in [Bible Student's Notebook 791](#).
2. Romans 11:11-31.
3. Romans 1:16; 2:9-10.
4. **Yet now, in Christ Jesus, you, who once are far off, are become near by the blood of Christ** (Ephesians 2:13, CV);
The secret which has been concealed from the eons and from the generations, yet now was made manifest to His saints (Colossians 1:26, CV).
5. *And to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all* (Ephesians 3:9, CV).

In correctly partitioning God's Word of Truth, it is imperative to see that, in the Secret Administration as revealed in Ephesians and Colossians, we DO NOT lose the DOCTRINAL standings written in Romans that were true for ALL believers.

What was lost was the DISPENSATIONAL stand-

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 41, No. 1002 – January 8, 2024

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 (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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During the dispensation when Romans was written, **DOCTRINALLY** speaking the Jew and Gentile believer were equal in spirit [rather than in the flesh].

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him (Romans 10:12).

Each were justified by faith apart from the law – in spirit [again, rather than in the flesh].

However, **DISPENSATIONALLY** speaking the Jew and Gentile believer were NOT equal in standing.

The grafting of the Gentile believer into Israel – before the nation was saved and ready for their “great commission” to ALL the Earth – was, as it states, “contrary to nature.”⁶

God’s purpose in this graft was to provoke Israel to jealousy,⁷ but we know that that didn’t happen. The nation forfeited its position because of unbelief, and Israel’s failure resulted in the riches of the Gentiles.

In the Acts period, Israel’s **DISPENSATIONAL** standing as a nation was a position of favor before God. Yet the individual Jew and Gentile who believed the Gospel had equal footing **DOCTRINALLY**.

“Yet NOW,” in this present dispensation of Absolute Grace,⁸ we know that the favored nation lost its fa-

vorable standing when we read Acts 28:28.⁹

What happened to the believing Jews and the believing Gentiles (that we read about in **Romans 11**), when the unrepentant nation lost its favorable standing with God (Acts 28:28)?

In light of the olive tree illustration, what does it mean that “callousness, in part, on Israel has come, UNTIL the complement of the nations may be entering”?

For I am not willing for you to be ignorant of this secret, brethren, lest you may be passing for prudent among yourselves, that callousness, in part, on Israel has come, until the complement of the nations may be entering. And thus all Israel shall be saved, according as it is written, “Arriving out of Zion shall be the Rescuer. He will be turning away irreverence from Jacob. And this is My covenant with them Whenever I should be eliminating their sins” (Romans 11:25-27, CV).

I believe that the above is the revealed will of God. Its purpose was that Israel would be provoked to emulation while the hope of Israel’s salvation as a nation was still viable.

With the nation of Israel failing, God added believing Gentiles to partake of “the root and fatness.”¹⁰ This very act of God was to provoke the nation to a zealous jealousy, i.e., that the nation would desire what right-

given me to you-ward” (Ephesians 3:2, KJV).

9. “Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it” (KJV).

10. Romans 11:17.

6. Romans 11:24 (KJV, YLT).

7. Romans 11:11 (KJV).

8. “If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is



The Administration of the Secret

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The Secret Administration, revealed through Ephesians and Colossians, is characterized and empowered by the dispensing of transcendent grace (Ephesians 1:7; 2:7; 3:2). Now, believing Gentiles are “no longer guests and sojourners,” as they were in the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, but are “fellow-citizens of the saints and members of God’s family”

(Ephesians 2:19). This outstanding work includes 45 chapters, by 17 authors, spanning nearly 200 years. Author’s include: Oscar M. Baker, Tom L. Ballinger, J. R. Caldwell, E. H. Clayton, J.J.B. Coles, John Essex, J.H. Evans, H.W. Fry, Vladimir Gelesnoff, William B. Hallman, Richard Holden, John H. Kessler, A.E. Knoch, Adlai Loudy, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Charles H. Welch.

fully belonged to them. That didn't happen! In fact, Israel *not only* rejected Christ and the message, but also DID NOT want the Gentiles to hear and receive it. Remember the times they plotted to kill Paul?¹¹

A number from the nations were to be added (“*the complement of the nations*”), along with the believing Jews, **as long as Israel’s hope was still possible**. When “*the complement of the nations*” reached its **fullness**, then ALL Israel was to be saved.

Acts 28:28 had NOT yet been written when Paul wrote Romans 11.

Like many things in God’s Word, **what we read is God’s revealed will** – that is, what would have transpired, as we see it written, **IF Israel had repented**. Yet **God’s hidden intention was that the nation would not repent**, and thus the salvation of Israel as a nation did NOT happen as revealed.¹²

NO, it did NOT, because that which was revealed regarding Israel’s hope (the Kingdom being restored and ALL Israel being saved), was placed in abeyance. **So, too, ended Gentiles being added to the olive tree**, because **that DISPENSATION came to an end** at Acts 28:28. What happened to those Gentile believers? We are told what happened to them in Ephesians.

In the Acts period, **DISPENSATIONALLY speaking**, Gentile believers were “*far off*.”

Wherefore, remember that once you, the na-

11. [Editor:] Cf. Acts 9:23-24; 14:19; 21:31; 23:12-16; 25:2-3.

12. [Editor:] For more on the contrast of God’s “will” and “intention,” see the following in [Bible Student’s Notebook 370](#).

– “God’s Will and Intention,” A.E. Knoch;
– “God’s Will, Counsel and Intention,” William B. Screws.

tions in flesh – who are termed “**Uncircumcision**” by those termed “**Circumcision**” in flesh, made by hands – that you were, **in that era** [dispensationally speaking], *apart from Christ, being alienated from the citizenship of Israel, and guests of the promise covenants, having no expectation, and without God in the world* (Ephesians 2:11-12, CV).

That was the **DISPENSATIONAL standing of the Uncircumcised** Gentile believer in Romans 11. It was **NOT their DOCTRINAL standing**.

Yet NOW, in Christ Jesus [in this dispensation of Absolute Grace], *you* [believing Gentiles], *who once are far off* [dispensationally], *are become near by the blood of Christ*. For **He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes** [destroys] **the central wall of the barrier** (*the enmity in His flesh*), **nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He should be creating the two, in Himself, into one new humanity, making peace; and should be reconciling both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in it**. And, **coming, He brings the evangel of peace to you, those afar, and peace to those near, for through Him we both have had the access, in one spirit, to the Father** (:13-18).

The Romans 11:25 “*complement of the nations*” **quantification**¹³ was a **DISPENSATIONAL truth as long as God was adding Gentiles to the olive tree**. Yet with Israel’s final rejection, as recorded in Acts 28:28, **NO longer was there a place for the Gentile believer**. Thus, it was NOW time for God to reveal the Secret Administration with His Absolute Grace

13. [Editor:] *i.e.*, reckoning.



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being dispensed to the peoples of the nations, which now included Israel.

"Yet now," standing-wise, **DISPENSATIONALLY** speaking, Israel was NO longer God's people, NO longer His favored nation.

But, *in that era of the Acts period*, standing-wise, **DISPENSATIONALLY** speaking, the two did NOT have the same access. **WHY?**

Because God Himself placed enmity between them. The Gentile believers were mere guests of the promise covenants. The Gentile had NO expectation during the Pentecostal Administration with its Jew-first **DISPENSATIONAL** standing.

"Yet NOW!" in this current era, in this present Secret Administration, where Absolute Grace is being dispensed, God has reconciled both in **One Body** – where both are NOW enjoying the same doctrine, the same standing, and the same access.

WHY is Romans 11:25 NOT referring to the One Body of Ephesians? How can it be? The central wall of the barrier was UP in Romans! The DISPENSATIONAL standing was "JEW first." "YET NOW" there are NO distinctions in the One Body!

A tool to have in our spiritual toolbox is that we need always to remember: When studying Scripture, the precept of "if God be willing" should always be understood, for indeed it is always present in God's

Word, whether **explicitly** or **implicitly**.¹⁴

The nation of Israel did NOT repent, they did NOT believe that Jesus was Israel's promised Messiah. Even so, we know that there will be a national restoration and blessing of Israel – yet NOT because of Romans 11:25, but according to the terms of the New Covenant.¹⁵

When God enacts the New Covenant there is NO cause, NO need for Israel to be provoked to jealousy, as **the whole nation will be BORN in "ONE DAY!"**¹⁶

Yes! "ALL Israel" shall be saved, because "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance," when GOD will be "eliminating their sins" (Romans 11:26-29).

To conclude, "UNTIL the complement of the nations may be entering" (Romans 11:25) sits within the aforementioned dispensational conditions where the One Body did NOT exist, and moreover *could NOT exist*, NOR was the ecclesia which is His Body even hinted at in that DISPENSATION.

Another tool for our spiritual toolbox that will aid us as students in correctly partitioning God's Word of (see **COMPLEMENT**, last page)

14. [Editor:] For example, God had believing Gentiles in the Acts period partake of "the root and fatness" of Israel in order to provoke the nation to desire what rightfully belonged to them. However, God was not willing for this to come to fruition at this time.
15. Jeremiah 31.
16. "Who hath heard anything like this? Who hath seen anything like these? Is Earth caused to bring forth in **one day**? Born is a nation **at once**? For she hath been pained, Zion also hath borne her sons" (Isaiah 66:8).



Three of the books that I am ordering are replacements for books I handed out. Good stuff. Blessing to all of you at Study Shelf and the BSN. – **AR**

When I think about how God made me unique to prepare me for a purpose, I began to look at others the same way – especially the ones that annoyed me.

That really helps me to put things in perspective. How glorious our future is. What a plan God has put together. – **PA**

I've enjoyed your ministry over the past decade, and have been learning and growing in grace. ... – **WI**

... I intend to gift four of the titles included in my order to someone else: [Being OK with Not Being OK](#), [The Divine Activation of Faith](#), [Divine Lockup](#), and [The Absolute Despotism of Grace](#). They have been so great and uplifting I've read them several times already. Just wanted to let you know that. – **Germany**

(see **MAILBOX**, last page)



Is God's Solution to Sin One Which Isolates the Sinner and Sin Eternally?

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: GOD / Unit 3: The Love of God / Lesson 9: Is God's Solution to Sin One Which Isolates the Sinner and Sin Eternally?

by — Mark D. Vogt (with Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.)

Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds (Romans 5:20).

Key Points:

Father God is the most loving, giving, graceful, forgiving Being in the entire Universe! NOT the sociopathic, narcissistic, hell-breathing, demonizing, hateful, despot that Christen-

dom's humanized, heretically paganized, traditionalized religion makes Him out to be.8441

Christendom has this strange view of God's solution for sin. They believe that He will quarantine it on some dark outskirts of His universe forever. He will incarcerate the overwhelming majority of His creatures in a vast and horrific torture chamber while He and a very small minority of His creatures proceed to enjoy themselves with eternal bliss. This outpost would make Hitler's hideous concentration camps look peaceful by comparison.

Is the true God of Scripture not greater than this? Is He not wiser than this? More loving than this? More responsible? Really?

Is Christendom's presentation really God's solution for sin? Not a chance!

The problem is not with God, or His Scriptures, but with the religion that professes to represent Him. Christendom has adapted pagan Greek mythology (e.g. Orpheus, Pythagoras, Plato), Homer's *Odyssey*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, and Dante's *Inferno* as their theology, and translated their Bibles to support their creeds.

An amazing solution for sin, is it not? Do they really believe that this is the best solution that God could derive?

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The God of Scripture is far bigger than all of man's little imagined gods. For,

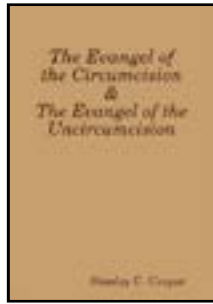
Where sin abounds, grace much more abounds
(Romans 5:20).

Christianity has at its core a disrespect for the God Whom they claim to honor and worship. The doctrines of Christianity have at the altar of their worship what can be best described as a human-centered religion which places a great deal of responsibility for their "eternal" destiny upon themselves.

Yet, it is God Himself Who "*is the Savior of all mankind*" (I Timothy 4:10). So, He is not going to isolate sin and the sinner in some forsaken place in the Universe because He couldn't figure out what to do with them, and was not powerful or wise enough to make provision for them.

Father God is the most loving, giving, graceful, forgiving Being in the entire Universe! NOT the sociopathic, narcissistic, hell-breathing, demonizing, hateful, despot that Christendom's humanized, heretically paganized, traditionalized (Matthew 15:3, 6-9) religion makes Him out to be (Romans 5:20)!

God created evil (Isaiah 45:7) and is therefore responsible for the results of His creation. Consequently He is justified in His use of evil because, in the end, at the Consummation, ALL of His remaining sentient creatures, both terrestrial and celestial (including Satan, Judas, fallen human and celestial beings), will ALL be Divinely reconciled through the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, so that Father will be the "ALL IN all" (I Corinthians 15:28)!



The Evangel of the Circumcision & The Evangel of the Uncircumcision
by — Stanley C. Cooper
64 pages See [order form](#) under "Facsimile."

All things and all people serve God, whether anybody realizes it or not. Sin will be used by God until it has served its purpose in His Universe, and then He will eradicate it, leaving all of God's creatures,

delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (Romans 8:21).

Although,

we are aware that the entire creation is groaning and travailing together until now (Romans 8:22),

the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of the sons of God (Romans 8:19, CV).

For indeed, nothing,


shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:39).

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: God, Love of; Salvation of All

Minor: Sin; Sovereignty



The More Excellent Way
by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Reading of the marvelous gifts in 1 Corinthians 12, who has not been struck with the last verse of the chapter: "*Covet earnestly the best gifts*"? That is what we would like to do! But what do the closing words mean: "*And yet show I unto you a more excellent way*"? Can it be that there is something even better than the best gifts? If so, what is it and how may we enjoy it? This booklet helps us find the answer.
23 pages See [order form](#) under "Knoch."

MAILBOX (continued from page 8439)

The insightful poem from Chauncey Hare Townsend [An End of Evil].¹ Wonderful!!! I'm going to try to memorize this poem. – *IN*

My attention was drawn to the video [The 3 Ministries of Paul](#), and succinctly I want to tell you that it has answered many, many questions I have been struggling with [regarding] Paul's epistles over the years but more intensely within the last 12 months.

I did not understand that if all of his epistles were solely for us [and] he kept mentioning Israel things, as well as many if/then propositions, all I can say at this juncture is that your teaching "makes sense"

1. [Bible Student's Notebook 946](#).

COMPLEMENT (continued from page 8439)

Truth is always asking this question: "Is the middle wall **UP**, or is the middle wall **DOWN**?" If the wall is **UP**, then the **One Body** was still a secret. It is *only* when the wall is **DOWN** that we learn of the **One Body** of the Secret Administration where God's Absolute Grace is being exceedingly dispensed.

Wall **UP** – Pentecostal Administration – **Jew first**.

Wall **DOWN** – Secret Administration – **One Body**.

BSN

(abridged & edited)

TOPICS:

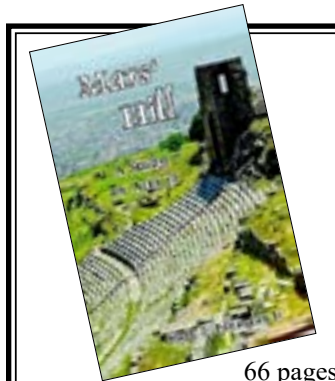
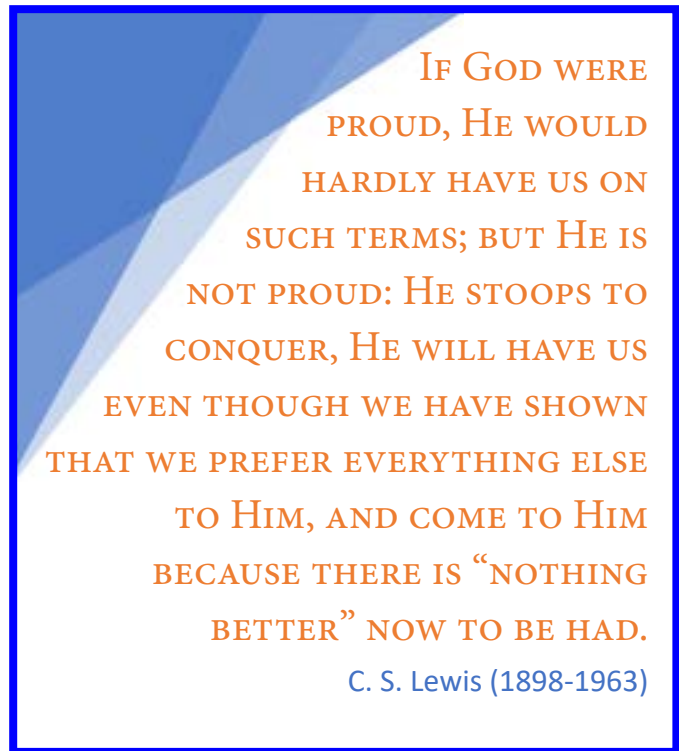
Major: Acts 28:28; Dispensational: Mystery; Right Division; Romans 11:25; Scripture

Minor: Acts Period; Colossians; Ecclesia; Ephesians; Grace; Grafted In; Middle Wall; One Body; Romans

in light of the issues that I have struggled with and the answers you have provided. ... I have shared this video multiple times with those whom I share an affinity, great work no doubt from many hours of labor in the word. – *Canada*

I think of you often, and though I don't communicate often, I want you to know you have a friend, ally and brother out there who loves you and has your back should you have any need. – *South Korea*

Never have I had such a blessing as what we all shared this past weekend. Our Lord was definitely in the midst of all our conversations. I will always hold dear to my heart the warmth of our fellowship. Your friend and partner in the faith. – *OH* **BSN**



66 pages

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

Mars' Hill: A Study on Acts 17

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Even among those who place a great emphasis on Paul, with his unique apostleship and message, there is an amazing neglect of one of his most outstanding messages found in the Book of Acts: his message given on Mars' Hill. The content of his message to this group of unbelieving pagans has been overlooked for far too long. These words of Paul contain a very rich message. Preserved in the Scriptures, we know that, not only was it a challenge to the pagans of Athens, but it will prove to be a challenge to the members of Christ's Body as well.