Bible Student's Notebook

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41 Issue 1014



Tidbits of Truth #65

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

Aging and Ministry

Concerning important ministry in the later years of life, here is an encouragement from history. Arguably one of the most singularly influential works of history has been the *Companion Bible*. Its worldwide influence on truth seekers is hard to dispute. When E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913) set aside all of his many labors to work on this monumental project, he was 70 years old. Among his primary associates in the work were Sir Robert Anderson, who was 66, and H.C. Bowker, who was 68.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Spiritual Insanity

Christ is the Head of the church: and He is the Savior of the Body (Ephesians 5:23).

He is the Head of the Body, the church: Who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence (Colossians 1:18).

[Excerpt:] The church is the Body (Colossians 1:24), and Christ is the Head (Colossians 1:18). The church is controlled by the mind of Christ, as the human body is controlled by the human mind. When a man loses his mind (becomes insane), then he is incarcer-

ated and others control him.

Not holding the Head (Colossians 2:19).

The very selection of a human head shows that denominationalism is spiritual insanity. Every "church" which has a human head says in effect: "We will not have this Man (Christ) to reign over us." The headship of man is a repudiation of the Headship of Christ.

The whole human system of human church organization and federation is derived from the Greeks, who patterned the church after their governmental systems. We still have this old Greek system with us, in the multiplicity of sects and denominations, and at the same time the *called out ones* have withdrawn from such human organization.

— Elmer E. Franke (1861-1946) *Which is the True Church?*

Individual vs. National Rejection

[*To: J.H.*] You are absolutely correct, that God has not rejected ANYONE (whether Gentile or Jew). And you are also correct that this is a fact confirmed in the teaching of the Ultimate Reconciliation of all men to God.

(continued on page 8533)

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Duty (quote: Robert Richardson)	8538

^{1.} For a look at the history of the production of the *Companion Bible*, see,

 [&]quot;The Historical Background of Bullinger's Companion Bible," Bible Student's Notebook 973.



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Bible Student's Notebook[™]

Paul Our Guide - Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 41, No. 1014 - April 1, 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
- 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 Ephe-
- sians & 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, Célestial 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

Bible Student's Notebook™

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However, the issue at hand at the close of the Acts period is not about individual rejection, but NATION-AL rejection. It is Israel's National standing with God that has temporarily gone into abeyance. This happened at the close of the book of Acts (28:28).

Romans 9-11 is not primarily about individuals, but nations (both Israel and the rest.) At the time of Paul's writing of Romans (during the period covered by the book of Acts, and before its close), Israel was still God's favored nation, and they had dispensational PRIORITY ("to the Jew first") over the Gentile nations. This national priority has been lost for now.

Fry² is not addressing the issue of Universal Reconciliation, but dealing with the past and current dispensational position of the nation Israel. God will again deal with Israel as a nation, but for now they have been rejected nationally. This, of course, had nothing to do with the rejection of individuals within the nation.

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Trans-Dispensational Truth

[*To: T.S.*] Yes, there are some truths that are what we might term "trans-dispensational." Even though there are different administrations (or dispensations), some truths remain the same through all of them, or span over several.

The *sovereignty of God* is a great example. God is al-

God's Revealed Purpose, H.W. Fry (1848-1938), on the order form under "Other Authors."

Take Romans 11:36 for example. This is not a *dispensational* truth, *relative* to a particular administration, but it is rather an *absolute*, or unchanging truth. Although written during the Acts period, the truth of Romans 11:36 spans all administrations and ages.

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him is all: to Whom be majesty for the ages. Amen (BSV).

Death is another example of "trans-dispensational" truth. It spans all administrations, from the disobedience of Eden's Garden to the Consummation.

There are also other truths that pertain only to a particular administration, or others that span a set of administrations. These are all to be determined by carefully following Paul's admonition of "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15; i.e., "correctly partitioning the Word of Truth," CV, 1930), which is accomplished by "distinguishing between things that differ" (Philippians 1:10, BSV; "testing things that differ" (WT); "proving the things that differ" (YLT); "examin[ing] the things differing" (ED).).3

It is essential that we recognize that while all of the Bible is written for us, it is not all written to us or



'Compilations.

The Comfort and Encouragement of Hope (A Comprehensive Compilation)

The authors of this reassuring work includes: Tom L. Ballinger, Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Edward H. Clayton (1887-1972), Dr. Edgar Gerald Jones (1894-1974), Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J.C. O'Hair (1876-1958), C.H. Mackintosh (1820-1896), George Matheson (1842-1906), J.R. Miller (1840-1912), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank N. Pohorlak (1907-1988), Theodore Joseph Silva (1909-1974), Tony Smith, André Sneidar, and Dean Wilkinson.

ways sovereign – always has been, always will be, regardless of the administration. Therefore, when we read a passage dealing with the theme of God's sovereignty, we can know that it is trans-dispensational.

^{3. &}quot;To 'try things that differ' (JWNT; SLT) is the process, to 'approve things that are excellent' (KJV) is the result." – J. Eustace Mills

about us. Simply put, we must learn to make a difference where God makes a difference.4

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

A Fellowship of Suffering

[Excerpt:] There is something about suffering that longs for someone to sit with us through the pain. It's the fellowship of suffering. It's the words "you are not alone" put into action. ... More than a card or a casserole, the familiar, patient presence of another says to us "it's too much for you to bear, but I will be with you, I will sit with you."

 Marilyn Gardner Toward a Fellowship of Suffering

Along these lines of distinction, Charles H. Welch (1880-1967) wrote, "Threefold Division of All Truth, The: Doctrinal - Dispensational - Practical," which can be found in Bible Student's Notebook 552.

For a foundational study of "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth," see the continuing series "Right Division (An Overview of Dispensational Truth)," by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.:

Part 1, Bible Student's Notebook #551; Part 2, Bible Student's Notebook #552; Part 3, Bible Student's Notebook #553; Part 4, Bible Student's Notebook #554; Part 5, Bible Student's Notebook #555; Part 6, Bible Student's Notebook #556; Part 7, Bible Student's Notebook #557; Part 8, Bible Student's Notebook #558; Part 9, Bible Student's Notebook #559; Part 10, Bible Student's Notebook #570; Part 11, Bible Student's Notebook #781; Part 12, Bible Student's Notebook #795; Part 13, Bible Student's Notebook #796; Part 14, Bible Student's Notebook #800; Part 15, Bible Student's Notebook #893; Part 16, Bible Student's Notebook #911.

There is also a video series available:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXXxM1xulaqu1tB H5L3fF8DinoBgiq83T

"An Idol Is Nothing"

[To D.R.:] Since we are from among the nations, our cultures are riddled with paganism and heathenism. The Greek word ethnos is commonly translated in English versions as: nations, gentiles, and heathen. So, paganism and heathenism are everywhere among the nations, and quite unavoidable. So much so, that Paul declared:

I did not mean the immoral people of this world or the greedy and swindlers or **idolaters**; otherwise you would have to **leave the world** (I Corinthians 5:10).

Therefore, since nearly everything about our culture is pagan and heathen, Paul's point is that it simply can't be escaped – without leaving the world!

Let's take the very basic example - the names of the days of our week. Every one of them are pagan! They are all named after pagan gods: Saturn (Saturday), Sun (Sunday), Moon (Monday), (with Roman gods became Nordic gods for the remainder:) Mars became Tyr (Tuesday), Mercury became Odin (Wednesday), Jupiter became Thor (Thursday) and, Venus became Frigg (Friday).

Shall we abandon the names of the days of the week and not use them because they are idolatrous and pagan? Of course not.

For believers, Paul gives us an important perspective concerning "idols" and false "gods."



See <u>order form</u> under "Gelesnoff."

Studies in Ecclesiastes: The Words and Works of God and Man

by — Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

Many current versions of the Bible often translate the same Hebrew word in various ways. In this way a veil of mystery has been thrown over many a passage, and a certain amount of human opinion and guesswork has been imported into God's truth. The Book of Ecclesiastes has severely suffered from inconsistency in translation – no sacred book has ever been so much misunderstood in its whole aim and spirit. Our aim should always be to adjust our thoughts to the facts, and never to adjust the facts to our thoughts.

Applying this principle to the matter in hand, our prime concern is to ascertain what

the book of Ecclesiastes has to say about itself. The book aims at achieving a threefold object: (1) Recognition of God as God; (2) Reception of His revelation; (3) Regulation of life in view of a future rectification or judgment.

Then, concerning the feeding on the idol sacrifices: **We are aware that an idol is nothing** in the world, and that **there is no other God except One** (I Corinthians 8:4, CV).

The problem with "idols" and false "gods" is when they are believed to be real and worshipped as such. Yet for us who know the one true God, we know assuredly that, "an idol is nothing." It is as simple as that. Idolatry, paganism, heathenism are all made up by those who are blind and do not know the one true God. It's all make-believe. They are fairytales. They are myths.

So, if we say, "Let's meet up on Thursday," we are in NO way acknowledging that Thor is real and that we are worshipping him. We can thus extrapolate this to every circumstance in life. Paul did so concerning food that had been sacrificed to idols. For the mature believer, there is no issue with partaking of things dedicated to idols, since it is all made up. So, his response was simple, "an idol is nothing."

Paul then goes on to say, concerning the eating of food sacrificed to idols, "*Now food will not give us a standing with God*" (:8, *CV*), whether we eat it, or refrain from it. So, if I use the word "Thursday," or not, I do not improve or diminish my "*standing with God*."

This principle can be expanded to anything that may be deemed pagan or idolatrous.

Let's take Christmas for example. Everything about

it is clearly rooted in paganism, even the "Christmas Story."

When I first learned this, for some two decades, I would have *nothing* to do with Christmas. It was not until I learned these important lessons from Paul that I realized that there was nothing that would give me standing, or lack of standing that had *anything* to do with Christmas. The whole thing was just a fairytale. I could enjoy it, or not. What was important for me, if I did participate, was that I did not embrace the folklore as truth, or attempt to worship God with its error. I could enjoy any of the activities of the Winter Festivals if I desired, but I would just not do so as if they were all somehow related to truth.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Divine Immanence

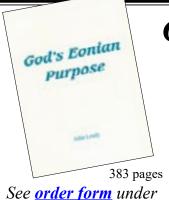
For in Him we live, and move, and have our being ... (Acts 17:28, KJV).

For in Him we are living and moving and are ... (CV).

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

The true God of Scripture is One of Divine Immanence.

Immanence is defined as that which is,



"Loudy."

God's Eonian Purpose

by — Adlai Loudy

First printed in 1929, this work is a review of God's plan and purpose, gathering together many of the most basic themes of Scripture, including *The Beginning of Creation, The Eons and Administrations, Justification, The Conciliation, Completeness in Christ*, and *The Goal of the Universe*. These and other vital subjects are presented in an interesting and informative manner. The book contains charts and illustrations which provide a welcome visual supplement to the text. (*Available in Hardcover & Paperback*)

"This is probably the most suitable of our publications for those of your friends

who are just becoming interested, or who do not know of the truths we teach, yet are willing to read and to consider them. It is written in a simpler manner than some of our other publications, and is easier for the beginner to understand. It covers, in a general way, most of the great fundamental subjects of the Scriptures." — A.E. Knoch

∱.

present as a natural part of something; present everywhere (*Oxford Dictionary*);

living, remaining, or operating within; inherent ... [in] theology, present throughout the universe (*Collins Dictionary*).

Omnipresence is defined as,

the fact of being present everywhere (*Oxford Dictionary*);

God being the Divine Spirit (John 4:24), He certainly is "present everywhere," yet He is more than that. He is not just everywhere, He is *in* His creation, and creation is *in* Him. This is reciprocal indwelling, yet, is not to be confused with the error of pantheism, that denies the personality of God, and where "the universe is God." Divine Immanence is far greater than any pagan concepts. All of creation is connected, not as God, but *in* God, so that the ultimate goal is, "God All in all." Once there was just God, God being all that there was – God All. The grand consummation of His magnificent plan is that He will be God All in all.

The American Dictionary of the English Language, Noah Webster (1928).

"The doctrine that the universe, taken or conceived of as a whole, is God; the doctrine that there is no God but the combined force and natural laws which are manifested in the existing universe; cosmotheism. The doctrine denies that God is a rational personality. – Webster's 1913 Dictionary

"The doctrine that God is not a personality, but that all laws, forces, manifestations, etc. of the universe are God; the belief that God and the universe are one and the same. — Webster's New World Dictionary

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote, under the heading "The Divine Immanence,"

God is *inherent* in all His handiwork, so He cannot be far from anyone. As Paul told the Athenians in his memorable keynote sermon on the Areopagus, "*in Him we are living and moving and are*" (Acts 17:28).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Absolute and The Relative

[To R.H.] Concerning the question that has arisen, there is one thing that is foundational and sure: that God is absolutely sovereign, and as you have said, He "works all things according to the council of His own will."

Yet, another important principle of Scripture is the distinction between the *absolute* and the *relative*. We see these two principles all throughout Scripture. The *absolute* truth is that God is always in control. Always. This is an unchanging truth. "*ALL is of God*." *Absolutely ALL*.

Still, equally presented in Scripture is that which is perceived. This is the *relative* perception. That is, this is the way man *relates* to what is going on around him.

Let me illustrate by making two statements.

Rain comes from God. Rain comes from clouds.



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and friends. Among the teachers is your editor Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. Check out these topics/titles (at youtube.com/user/1424241):

- Bible Basics
- *The Scripture Minute*
- Things I Misunderstood
- The Divine Lockup

- The Undoing of Adam
- The Pentecost & Secret Administrations
- Male & Female
- The Greatest Truth I Know

Which statement is true?

Well, both, in a way. *Absolutely*, from the divine viewpoint, rain comes from God! Yet, relatively, the way in which we relate to rain, by our senses, from the human viewpoint, we see the cloud approaching, and the rain coming down out of them.

So, absolutely, rain comes from God, He being its absolute source. Yet, God decreed that His servant, or vessel of the rain, would be the cloud.6

So, *absolutely* everything that happens, is decreed by God, even though God gives instructions to someone to do, or not do certain things -- or warns us of what others may, or may not do (the relative).

The passage that has been brought up to you (Revelations 3:11) is an example of this. Israel is warned to "hold fast," so that no one would take their "crown." This is all relative, as to the players involved in the story that God has written. Yet whether a Jew held fast, or someone takes their crown, is all by absolute divine decree of God.

If the Jews are to "hold fast," then this is because this was the decreed will of God. If someone takes their crown, this is because this was the decreed will of God. For ALL is of God.

So these two principles - the *absolute* and the *relative*, are not in conflict, but in symmetry. These are principles to be found throughout Scripture.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



TOPICS:

Major: [Trans-Dispensational Truth:] Trans-Dispensational; Right Division [A Fellowship of Suffering:] Suffering; Fellowship; Empathy [Aging and Ministry:] Old Age; Companion Bible, The ["An Idol is Nothing":] Idolatry; Pagan; Heathen; Days of the Week; Christmas; Easter [Spiritual Insanity:] One Body; Headship; Clergy; Pastor; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18; Colossians 2:19 [Individual vs. National Rejection:] Right Division; Acts 28; Israel; Lo-ammi [Divine Immanence:] Immanence; Union; God; Omnipresence; Pantheism [The Absolute And The Relative:] Absolute and Relative



A sincere heartfelt thank you for your videos. I have over the years watched many of your messages/ teachings and enjoyed them tremendously, today I came across a couple I had not seen before and my heart swelled with joy and thanksgiving at the goodness and graciousness of our God and Father and our Lord Jesus Christ that you shared with your listeners, it was awesome! - Canada

My wife and I have so much enjoyed Study Shelf, and what you offer. ... Thank you for your diligence in revealing truth through your resources. My wife and I came out of 25 years of music ministry, and played for many gospel artists out of Nashville and California. Being involved in both conservative and charismatic churches, our journey has given us many experiences in Christianity today. We thank God on a daily basis that we have discovered the delightful truth of the Father and His sovereign purposes. Please keep up the great work you do! - FL

I just want to thank you for your <u>Study Shelf</u> library and the many valuable books I have received from it. Please accept the small offering as a show of my appreciation for you and your ministry. - KS

Love your article on <u>Joy-Helpers</u>. How blessed we are to participate in this activity. It is a joy to observe the



Studies in the **Book of Acts**

by - Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

66 pages – See order form under "Gelesnoff."

A dispensational survey of the Acts

of the Apostles.

^{6.} For more on the importance between the absolute and the relative, see the article in Bible Student's Notebook 662.

æ

many ways that God leads each one of us to Him and to know that He knows what He's doing. "For freedom Christ frees us!" – MD

You are a force to be reckoned with! You amaze me. You guys' ministry is so huge, where do you find the time? – *NE*

I have to tell you that both my wife and I have been devouring two of your many wonderful books, <u>We Call Him Father</u> and <u>Afflictions</u>, <u>Trials and Suffering</u> for the past several months as we have been going through our own unique version of "ALL things" from Father. We've both shed a lot of tears while reading them and sharing our thoughts with one another, but wouldn't trade any of it for what we've come to learn on an even deeper level about Him – His love and His sovereignty. One of many reasons we so appreciate your tireless commitment to presenting the truly good news via <u>Study Shelf</u>, <u>The Bible Student's Notebook</u>, <u>Email Goodies</u>, etc. – **CO**

Here is something I've been thinking about. The first lie Eve believed was that she would have control of something. Would you agree with this? I'm gradually getting it ... I think? ... I have control of one thing ... nothing! – *TN*

I am very blessed to have you guys putting in all this hard work to bring better understanding of Scripture and more enlightenment of God's Love and truth. – *PA*

Love the book! [Rightly Dividing Israel's Prophetic Kingdom] Thanks! – FL

I appreciate how you stay within the Scripture in your videos and uphold the Scripture. We must let the Word of God be the final authority no matter what our heart may say, or any man. – *ME*

BSN

FOR MY PART, I
SHALL ALWAYS CLAIM
THE RIGHT OF THINKING
AND JUDGING FOR MYSELF,
AND OF FULLY AND FREELY
EXPRESSING MY VIEWS,
WHETHER THESE CORRESPOND WITH THOSE OF OTHERS OR DIFFER FROM THEM.
THIS I CONCEIVE TO BE
A HIGH AND HOLY PRIVILEGE,
AND ITS EXERCISE A
SACRED DUTY.

Robert Richardson (1806-1876)



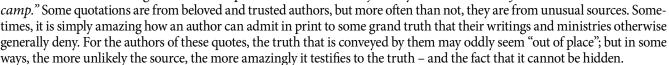
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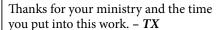
365 Selections on Scriptural Truths

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Editor

264 pages; 200 authors See <u>order form</u> 190 pages; 170 authors under "Clyde L. Pilkington."

These books contain a collection of gleanings from many different authors, and are intended to be an encouragement to those who are walking on a different path with the Lord – a journey that is "outside of the





Interesting, instructive and faith building. – *Canada*

I love that you have done this for

us. There is no way that we could go through half the amount of material you go through and pull out these tasty morsels. – *VA*

What a treasured collection! - MI

You have made me aware of authors I didn't even know. – *GA*

Truly an invaluable resource. - IL

These gleanings are so encouraging! – *Kenya*

