



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 41  
Issue 1015

# The Realization of God's Presence

by — Johann Grobler

### Key Points:

God is intensely involved in His creation and in everything going on around us.....8539  
God's presence is universal, with no place beyond His reach or knowledge.....8541  
There is only one source of all life, and that is God. Through His Spirit, God is present in every living creature – every person, every animal, every bird, every fish, every tree and every plant that has life. This does not mean that everything that lives is

God — or that pantheism is presented as the truth. It simply means that there is a little bit of God's Spirit present in every living organism.....8542  
God is present everywhere in His creation. Creation is His handiwork, and it says something about God without the utterance of words.....8542  
It is part of God's plan that all pain, suffering and death will come to an end one day.....8543

There is the perception that if there is a God, He is either irrelevant or not interested in what happens on planet Earth and in people's personal lives—that He is far away from us, busy with other things that interest Him.



My prayer, like Paul's, is that our eyes will be opened to see and appreciate God's presence and involvement.

Let's start at the beginning:

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).*

There could hardly be anything further from the truth.

In this world God does not get the recognition that is due to Him (Romans 1:21). Even in Christianity, there is a tendency to give less attention to God the Father, while Jesus is placed at the forefront.

Before creation, there was only God — nothing and no one else.

Paul made statements that I believe are the most all-encompassing profound statements that can be written or uttered:

Paul writes about Him, praying,

*that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, in the knowledge<sup>1</sup> of Him ... that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened ... (Ephesians 1:17-18, NAS<sup>2</sup>)*

*... out of Him [God] and through Him and for Him are all things (Romans 11:36, CV).*

*... for us there is one God, the Father, out of Whom all is ... (I Corinthians 8:6, CV)*

*(continued on page 8541)*

The truth is that God is intensely involved in His creation and in everything going on around us.

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1. Greek: *epignosis* = full discernment; acknowledgement (SEC).  
2. The *New American Standard Version* is used throughout, unless otherwise indicated.



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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 (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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The Greek word for “all” is *panta*, meaning “all things.” Everything that exists comes from God. Everything in the universe, everything on planet Earth, comes from God. God did not do His work of creation out of nothing. Everything that exists comes from His inner being.

While the big bang theory teaches that everything that exists originated from tiny particles of matter that exploded billions of years ago, but it cannot explain where those tiny particles came from. The truth is that everything that exists came from God. We don't have to ask the question, “Where does God come from?” because He is God, and that means He has always existed.

God is greater than His creation, and we know His creation is enormous — more than you and I can comprehend.

*Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is My throne, and the Earth is My footstool” (Isaiah 66:1).*

*It is He Who sits above the circle of the Earth ... Who stretches out the Heavens like a curtain. (Isaiah 40:22, NKJ).*

The greatness of God is greater than His creation. Creation is not so immense as to hinder Him from being present everywhere.

David asked,

*Where can I go from Your Spirit; or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to Heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold,*

*You are there. In Hades, there You are ... if I dwell at the end of the sea, there also Your hand will guide me (Psalm 139:7-10).*

The Lord asked Jeremiah,

*Can a man hide himself in hiding places, so I do not see him? ... Do I not fill the Heavens and the Earth? (Jeremiah 23:24).*

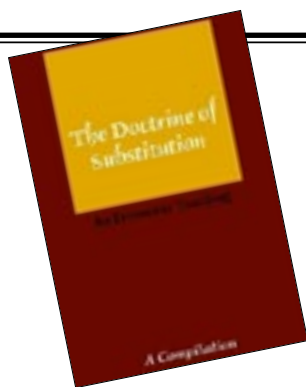
**Even if you find yourself on the highest mountain, or the deepest valley, or on a ship in the middle of the ocean, or on a spacecraft far from Earth, God is present.**

Jesus declared that God knows how many hairs are on each person's head. God knows the finest detail of your life. You don't have to tell Him anything about what's going on in your life. He already knows that.

All nutrients, as well as the food chain, were created by God. The ingenious way in which different species of birds, fish and animals get their food is astounding. All of this is from God – His genius and creativity.

*Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving ... Who provides rain for the Earth ... He gives to the beast its food, and to the young ravens which cry (Psalm 147:7-9).*

*Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them ... (Matthew 6:26).*



70 pages

## ***The Doctrine of Substitution: An Erroneous Teaching*** ***A Compilation***

This is an exposé of Christianity's erroneous doctrine of “Substitution.” Though it is widely accepted, it is not the teaching of Scripture. This is a compilation of authors, including: *A.P. Adams, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Andrew J. Jukes, A.E. Knoch.*

See [order form](#) under “Compilations.” “The best book I've read in ten years.” – Richard Kirsch

Science cannot explain life. What brings an organism to life? We can say that something alive can ingest food and reproduce – but these are qualities, not a statement of what life is.

Everything comes out of God. All life comes from Him. The Spirit of God gives life.

*The Spirit is that which is vivifying (John 6:63 CV).*

*... You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created (Psalm 104:29-30, NKJ)*

The little ant on a rock that carries a breadcrumb to its nest has life. The rock has no life. Why not? Because God's Spirit gives life where God decides to give life. He is able to give life to rocks, but that was not in His plan. Jesus said,

*God can raise up children for Abraham out of these stones (Matthew 3:9).*

**There is only one source of all life, and that is God. Through His Spirit, God is present in every living creature – every person, every animal, every bird, every fish, every tree and every plant that has life. This does not mean that everything that lives is God — or that pantheism is presented as the truth. It simply means that there is a little bit of God's Spirit present in every living organism.**

“All of God's creatures have some minute measure of His qualities,” according to A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), the editor-in-chief of the literal *Concordant Version* translation of the Bible.

Without necessarily being filled with God's Spirit as mentioned in Ephesians 5:18, there is a measure of God's Spirit in every human being.

Paul addressed some idol-worshippers in Athens and spoke the following remarkable words:

*For in Him [God] we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, “For we also are His offspring” (Acts 17:28).*

Maybe it is easier to believe this about your spouse, your parents, your children, or your best friends – the people you love, whom you will miss terribly when they are no longer with us. Of course there is something of God in them, right? Yet what about your neighbor and his noisy children? What about your colleague at the workplace who annoys you so much?

What is true of one is also true of the other. No one is perfect, but God is still shaping or preparing each one, as a potter works with the clay. There is something beautiful in every person – even the cruelest tyrant. You have, on occasion, probably wondered, “What does that woman see in that man, that she married him?” Chances are, she saw that little bit of God in him.

God loves every person – as he or she is, with all of their flaws.

What about snakes and scorpions? It is also part of “everything” that is from God. The same can be said of flies, mosquitoes and viruses. Scripture speaks of specific instances where God produced a plague of lice (Exodus 8:17), swarms of insects (Exodus 8:24), migratory locusts (Exodus 10:14), maggots (Exodus 16:20), and venomous snakes (Numbers 21:6). The day will come when God will make what is now annoying or harmful or dangerous, harmless and safe (Isaiah 11:6-8).

**God is present everywhere in His creation. Creation is His handiwork, and it says something about God without the utterance of words.**

*The Heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard, their line has gone out through all the earth, and their utterances to the end of the world ... (Psalm 19:2-4).*

*... that which may be known of God is manifest in them [mankind] for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, are clearly seen, being un-*

derstood by the things that are made, even His eternal<sup>3</sup> power and Godhead [margin: divine nature] ... (Romans 1:19-20, NKJ).

Although every human being has in him or herself something of God, the Spirit-filled believer radiates God's presence in that person in a more remarkable way. The fruit of the Spirit is manifested in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

When our eyes are opened to see the glory of God, it has the effect of transforming us whereby we may radiate that same glory more and more.

*But we all, with veiled face beholding, as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit ...*

*For God Who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ ...*

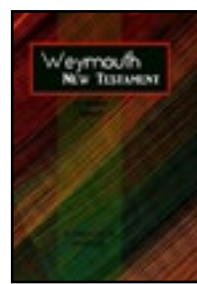
[But we] ... *always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body* (II Corinthians 3:18; 4:6, 10).

God is intensely involved in His creation. As a God of love, He loves man and beast. As wonderful as creation is, it has been in a state of distress since Adam's transgression. There is pain, suffering and the reality of death. That is how God ordained it. The pain and suffering of the world are also the pain and suffering of God – He feels it too.

He subjected creation to futility – but not forever.

*For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him Who subjected it, in hope, that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now* (Romans 8:20-22).

3. ἄιδιος (*aidios*); "everduring" (SEC G126).



## **Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech – The Resultant Greek Testament in English**

(Reprint of the 1903 Edition)

by — Richard Francis Weymouth

225 pages. See [order form](#) under "Bibles."

It is part of God's plan that all pain, suffering and death will come to an end one day. This will be the time when everything and everyone is reconciled to God.

*And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One Who subjected all things to Him, that God may be All in all* (I Corinthians 15:28).

So, to sum it up:

In the beginning: *All is out of God.*

Presently: *All is through God.*

Which culminates in: *All is to God.*

All glory to God for all life that now exists on Earth. All glory be to Him Who is involved in us and our world. All glory be to Him who gives us true life, and at the resurrection immortal glorified bodies, and at His appointed time, a world where there is no suffering and death. **BSN**

**Johann Grobler**, of South Africa, has been a practicing lawyer since 1978, who has dedicated much of his life to learning the truth about God and His plan. He holds a master's degree in theology from North-West University. For a time, he served as part-time pastor. He now enjoys independent study and local fellowship with a few of God's called-out ones. His writings are available on his website [GodisGod.co.za](http://GodisGod.co.za), where every article is in English as well as in Afrikaans, an official language of South Africa. He is also the Coordinator of Curriculum Resources for *Bible Student's Courses*.

See Grobler's previous article in the BSN:

– *Did God Predestinate Everything that Happens?*, [BSN 1009](#)

### **TOPICS:**

**Major:** God; Immanence; Pantheism; Sovereignty; Union

**Minor:** Death; Life; Realization; Suffering



# Reader's Question Box #77

## The Book of Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**Q:** It seems to me that Revelation is predominantly a Jewish book, in language, prose and many other ways. If so, does the “Book of Life” and other books (scrolls) pertain to the nation of Israel only? It is mentioned by Paul in Philippians, so I’m just a little confused: are people of nations also recorded in the book used for judgement purposes also? – D.R.

**A:** You are certainly correct in your observation that the book of Revelation is predominantly a Jewish book, as thus, of course, the “Book of Life” and other books pertain to the nation of Israel.

“The Book of Life” was the census roll of the living citizens of Israel. This citizenship could be extended beyond natural life, in the resurrection, by way of “eonian life.”

Throughout Scripture additional understanding can be obtained concerning the “Book of Life.”

For example, Isaiah 4:3 speaks of,

... everyone that is **written** among the living in Jerusalem.

Then there is Moses’s request to God for him to be blotted out of His book – to do so would have meant for his life to have been taken.

“Yet now, if You will forgive their sin ... and if not, blot me, I pray You, out of Your **book** which You have written.” And the Lord said unto Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My **book**” (Exodus 32:32-33).

We can notice the similarity of this passage and that of Revelation 3:5.

*He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in*

*white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the **Book of Life**, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels (KJV).*

Daniel wrote concerning the Kingdom of the Heavens,

*... at that time your people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the **book** (Daniel 12:1).*

David also referred to this book when he wrote,

*Let them be blotted out of the **book of the living**, and not written with the righteous (Psalm 69:28).*

*And of Zion it shall be said, “This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The LORD shall count, when He **writes** up the people, that this man was born there (Psalm 87:5-6).*

Thus, Christ taught that the believing of Israel could, upon looking to their future *eonian life*,

*... Rejoice, because your names are **written** in Heaven (Luke 10:20).*

Likewise, the book of Hebrews discusses,

*... The general assembly and church (ecclesia) of the Firstborn, which are **written** in Heaven (Hebrews 12:23).*

As to your question regarding Paul mentioning the “Book of Life” in Philippians, it is important to realize that during the Kingdom era of the Acts period there were those of the Circumcision who aided Paul in his priestly ministry to the Gentiles (such as Euo-

dias, Syntyche and Clement in Philippians 4:2-3) who were in “*the Book of Life*,” just as those whom he mentioned in Colossians 4:11 who were “*of the Circumcision*,” his “*fellowworkers unto the Kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.*”

No such national roll as the “*Book of Life*” is kept during the Secret Administration, while Israel is *Lo-Ammi* (“*not My people*”), for no one alive today has citizenship in “*the Israel of God*,” since the divine nation is currently in abeyance. Neither will the current

“*One Body*” of Ephesians have citizenship in Israel at any point in the future. Today’s ecclesia has a prior expectation (“*who are pre-expectant in the Christ*,” Ephesians 1:12, CV), that of an “*out-resurrection*” (Philippians 3:11; Greek, *exanastasis*). It will be manifested jointly with its Head (Colossians 3:4) – “*up far above all Heavens*,” prior to the resumption of Israel’s Kingdom program. Consequently, “*the Book of Life*” does not involve the “*Ecclesia which is His Body.*”

(see **BOOK**, next page)

# Pennsylvania Scripture Conference

March 23-24, 2024

## 20 Videos:

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### Clyde Pilkington:

[“Truthing in Love” \(Ephesians 4:15\)](#)

[The Final Word \(Ephesians & Colossians\)](#)  
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### Mike Owens:

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[Jonathan & Scott \(An Illustration of God’s Sovereignty & the Illusion of Free Will\)](#)



### Stephen Hill:

[The Celestial Realm & Powers of Darkness – Part 1](#)

[The Celestial Realm & Powers of Darkness – Part 2](#)

### Mark Vogt:

[Good, Better, Best \(Colossians 1\)](#)

[The “Especially Believers” \(I Timothy 4:9-11\)](#)



(see **MEETING**, last page)



Seemingly mundane duties are seen by faith as a divine investment in our role in the Celestials. – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**BOOK** (continued from previous page)

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote,

Paul speaks of certain ones “whose names are in the scroll of life” (Philippians 4:3), in such a way as to suggest that this applies only to a class. It is evident that some of his helpers were of the Circumcision (Colossians 4:11).

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 12 (1921)

Paul, when he wishes to distinguish his Circumci-

sion helpers from the rest, speaks of them as those whose names are in the scroll of life (Philippians 4:3).

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 34 (1943)

As for the other “books” of Revelation 20:12, among them is what we find mentioned in Malachi 3:16 as “a book of remembrance.” **BSN**

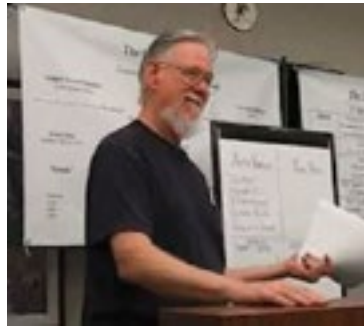
**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Book of Life; Revelation, Book of  
**Minor:** Ecclesia; Mystery; One Body; Right Division

**MEETING** (continued from previous page)

**Andre Sneidar:**

[Where We Fit in Prophecy](#)



**Testimonies:**

[Darson Buckner](#)

[David White](#)

[Roy Johnson](#)

[Larry Sissons](#)

[Ed](#)

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Meetings

**Minor:** Fellowship

**HE WHO ADMONISHES A MOCKER IS PROCURING DISHONOR TO HIMSELF.**

**THE PROUD AND ARROGANT PERSON, NAMED “MOCKER,” ACTS WITH RAGING ARROGANCE. HE SEEKS WISDOM AND FINDS IT NOT. REMOVE THE MOCKER AND CONFLICT DISAPPEARS, STRIFE AND INSULTS CEASE.**

King Solomon  
(Proverbs 9:7; 21:24; 14:6; 13:1; 22:10, CV, CEB, NET)



## *World Affairs and National Politics and the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

When did nationalism begin? What is God’s purpose for nationalism? Is the United States a Christian nation? Does any government have *Favored Nation Status* with God today? Should believers support Israel? What did Paul have to say about our citizenship? What is our role in relation to nations? Is our job to rid the world of evil? What should the believer’s attitude be toward earthly authority? Should all obedience to earthly magistrates be absolute? Are believers to pay their taxes? Where does voting and jury duty fit in? Why was the apostle Paul executed?

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