



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## *The Herald of His Grace*

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

Volume XIII  
Issue 311

## *Christine Webb Pilkington*

### OBITUARY

*The Daily Press*  
Hampton, VA

#### *Christine Webb Pilkington,*

83, fell asleep in our Lord Jesus Christ, Saturday, September 10, surrounded by her loving family at home.

A native of Johnston Co., NC, she was the daughter of the late William Robert Webb and Rosa Lee Tyner Webb of Pine Level, NC. She was a devoted home maker, a Sunday School teacher for 25 years, and resident of Virginia for 46 years before moving to Windber, PA in 2004.

She lived a life of hardships and triumphs, love and loss, faith and graciousness. To those in her life, her presence ran continually deep and rich.

Christine is survived by her two children, Clyde

Pilkington, Jr, of Windber, PA, and Judy Radford Settle of Raleigh, NC; her 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren (as well as the many whom she loved greatly and who called her "Mom" and "Grandmother").

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Clyde Pilkington and dear brother David William Webb.

Father: Thank you for our most precious expectation (I Corinthians 15:22-23).

Mom: Goodnight, you are greatly loved and will be dearly missed; but you have filled our love-buckets until we meet again. Rest well; we will all see you in the morning!

### CHRISTINE

by - Shirley Hyde

Memory takes me back many years,  
To my friend who was kind and true.

Thinking of her brings many tears,  
Oh! Christine, how I will miss you.

You were always spreading love,  
And helping others when you needed rest.



You told others of Heaven above.

You were a Christian example at its best.

You were a lady who loved the Lord,  
And was always ready to do His will.

By your family, you were adored.

Yes, You were a Christian who was real.

## **Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- 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);
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is a joint effort of a few members of the body of Christ. It is a product of our individual lives and ministries together. We do not claim infallibility for its contents. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

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Remember that it is our responsibility as husbands and fathers to take the truths we learn from God's Word, the truths that we hold dear, and impart them to our families.

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# *A Time to Die*

Christine W. Pilkington (1928-2011)

*A collage of thoughts from her son, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.*

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).*

As I write this my mother has exhausted her final days – it was her “time to die.” By choice, hers and ours, she was being cared for in our home by the family. Mom lived with us for most of the fifteen years since dad died, and we helped her through two bouts with cancer.



I Thessalonians 5:18, “in everything give thanks.”

## HER JOURNEY

My mother was no different than anyone else; she lived a life of hardships and loss. However, in Christ she also learned to live a life of triumph and love.

During these past three months, in addition to my regular duties, I became a full time nurse. I tell you this with joy, as it was my great honor and privilege to care for her. Of course, I was not the only nurse caring for her, as our entire family participated in this extreme labor of love.

My thanks to each of you who visited, called, wrote and sent cards and flowers. These all were a genuine comfort to her, as well as a tender encouragement to us during this time.

## LOVING AND GRACIOUS AT DEATH’S DOOR

My mother had always been a most loving and gracious lady. Up here in the north, they called her the “Southern Belle.” If possible, in these final hours of her life, she became *much more* loving and gracious. In a *great* trial of pain and weakness – that many face with bitterness, anger, and complaint – she endured with sweetness, kindness and thanksgiving.

It is that last word – *thanksgiving* – that would be her final hallmark. In her last, most coherent times, thankfulness was often on her lips. In a wonderful spirit she thanked us for everything that we did for her. More importantly, she spontaneously offered heartfelt words of thanksgiving to the Father.

Thanksgiving is an unusual ending to the long, weary process of death, but this is His crowning work in the life of His saints; and she was a living example of

One such experience was when she had tuberculosis in her early twenties. She spent eighteen months of her life separated from her family, and her little girl. Many who were in the sanitarium with her would never make it home. She would.

Through the whole experience she and my sister were abandoned by her alcoholic husband. The days ahead would prove extremely hard, but it was in the sanitarium – that lonely place of extreme trial, never knowing if she would live to see my sister again one day – that she learned to trust explicitly in her Father and take everything to Him. This would be a gift that He would use to give her a meaningful ministry of comfort to countless many.

## HER MINISTRY OF CONSOLATION

Mom had a large ministry of consolation. She conducted it spontaneously, innately and without fanfare. To the many that relied on her, they found an oasis of comfort and encouragement in their trying times.

*Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds by Christ (II Corinthians 1:3-5).*

For those who did not receive this ministry, you need to understand how broad it was. In her last seven years in Windber, PA, she had what I called her “telephone ministry.” Her phone seemed to be in use continually. I would go in to see her, or check on her, and she would be on the phone listening to someone unload their troubled heart to her. I’d check back in an hour or so, and she’d still be on the phone. She was truly a faithful shoulder to cry on. She always listened, never judging or condemning, and would say, “We’ll just take this to the Lord” – and she would, right there on the phone with them. She had an amazing ministry to hurting people.

### LIFE OF LOVE

To those in her life, her presence ran continually deep and rich. Our society likes to place restrictions on love. Mom didn’t. She loved big. She loved everyone. Her love knew no limits; those who knew her were touched by that love.

A recent example of such love is when a neighbor came to visit her just five days before her death. This neighbor had not talked to her in probably a year or so. Mom had continued a friendship with someone that her neighbor had a grudge against. When she arrived by mom’s bedside I was interested to see what mom’s response would be. Would she give her a loving rebuke by asking, “Where have you been? I have missed you.”? No. She looked her straight in the eye, called her by name, and said in the most sincere voice, “I love you.” This was among her last words.



### OUR GREAT GIFT

A great gift to us was that, over the past three months, so many were allowed to say “goodbye” to her. In her last two hours, gathered around her bed to say “goodbye,” 14 hands embraced her as she passed.

### LIVING EULOGIES

There were many who eulogized my mother at her funeral. Sometimes it’s sad that we think of all kinds of wonderful things to say to those that we love, but do not manage to tell them to them while they are alive. This was not true however for my mother. One thing that we did during the past three months was

give my mother her eulogies while she lived. We told her such kinds of things as:

“What I’ll remember about you is ...”

“What I’ll miss about you is ...”

“What I’ve learned from you is ...”

“What I love about you is ...”

“What I’ll cherish about you is ...”

We let her know how greatly she was loved, and how desperately we would miss her. We let her know that she had a big presence in our home, and that it would never be the same without her.

### HER LEGACY

No matter how long we live, life is too short. It goes by so quickly. We all live twice; this first installment is the vapor-life. Mom’s turn here is now over. Our turn at life continues for a time.

C.S. Lewis wrote that the death of his wife was like the sky spread out over everything. In my mom’s case, despite the constant heartache of living without my dad, she continued to live largely, enjoying every moment to its fullest.

My mother loved immensely! Those of us who were loved by her, we are her legacy. She lives on in each of us.

Now, those of us who knew Mom intimately can enjoy her in *each other*. We can live and love strongly – every moment to its fullest – as she did! This will honor her memory among us.

### LOVE NEVER FAILS

Remember something that Paul the Apostle tells us: “*Love never fails!*”

The love that she had for all of us, and that we shared in return to her, is but a small portion of the love that God the Father has for you. You may not know your Creator, but He knows you, and He loves you! He knows, understands and cares about all of our hurt, loss and sorrow, our great burdens and trials. Trust and rest in Him day by day. He is so very near to each of you. For in Him we live and move and have our being.



## THE NATURE OF DEATH

I was reminded every day of these last few weeks of the very nature of death. Though the natural counterpart to birth (Ecclesiastes 3:2), it is nonetheless still our *enemy* (I Corinthians 15:21).

I watched this enemy, day-by-day, slowly take away the life of my mother. I was daily reminded that our lives are just a vapor (James 4:14). Simply put, this first life of ours is but the *vapor-life*. After all, this is what the first installment of our existence is really all about. In dying, we die. In this life-long process of dying, we reach that final mortal apex – death.

*To die – you shall be dying* (Genesis 2:17, CLT).

## THE FINAL TRIAL OF LIFE

Not only is death an enemy, but it is also a trial that we must face “alone.”

Paul tells us that one of the reasons that each of us goes through our trials is so that we may be able bring comfort to others who are undergoing a similar trial as ours. We do so by sharing the real-life comfort that we received ourselves from God in our own trial.

Man’s lot is one of suffering and trial. Life is hard; it is hard by design. As believers, our brokenness prepares us to minister genuine, divine comfort to others. We can have real, deep, heartfelt compassion toward others only when we are truly able to identify with them.

*Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God* (II Corinthians 1:4).

Death, however, is that one trial where no one who has experienced it, and has been ministered to by Father’s love and grace, can be able to share that most intimate ministry with another. Others may be loving and gracious, kind and empathetic toward one who is dying, but in a real way death, unlike our previous struggles of life, is that final trial that we must face “alone.” No one has been there. Oh, they may have been through the death of a loved one, but no one has been through *the valley of the shadow of*

*death*, and passed through the *gates of death*, and then been able to share the grace and comfort that they received with another.

Of course, this is not exactly true. While, relatively, we must walk this cold, dark vale alone, there *is* One Who knows ALL about this final trial of our death, for it was *His* death. He is the One who joined us in our human experience, uniting us with Him in His life, death and resurrection.

The Lord Jesus Christ knows the agony of Golgotha. He knows the travail of the soul facing the last enemy. He “unioned”<sup>1</sup> Himself with us in our tragic experience. He ALONE is our steadfast comfort, comforting us with the comfort He received from Father when He joined us in *our* death. He tasted our death (Hebrews 2:9), and we will experience His resurrection (Romans 6:8).

Christ came, unioning Himself with us in our brokenness, emptiness and darkness, Calvary being the summit of this experience. He unioned Himself with us all the way to the depths of our own dark death. In all of this He gloriously provided our deliverance: His resurrection!

Christ died our death *with* us, not that we might not die ourselves, but that we would be raised immortal *with* Him.

*If we are dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him* (Romans 6:8).

It is through Adam that *death* became a part of our experience. It is through Christ and His *identity with us in that death* – our death – that the resurrection of *immortality* will likewise become a part of our experience. The Lord Jesus Christ is the undoing of Adam.

*As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive* (I Corinthians 15:22).

He joined us in *our* death that we might be included in *His* resurrection life. When He died, we died *together* with Him; when He rose, we rose *together* with Him; when He ascended to the right hand of the Father, we went *together* with Him. His joining of us ►

1. Though there is no English word “unioned.” It better speaks to me of the oneness that Christ has with me than the word “united.”



in our humanity, and the depths of its conclusion in death, was the only way to get us from the *mortality* of Adam to His *immortality*. We share in His immortality through the death of the Adamic race *in Him*.

Unlike what many advocate, Calvary was not the work of Christ to appease the Father's anger, or to somehow reconcile God to us. It was the undoing of the work of Adam. It was the bringing of an end to life in Adam, to reconcile us – all mankind – to God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ came to free us from the myth of our alienation with the Father. We *think* that we are alienated from God. It is an alienation that is in our minds.

*You, who were sometimes alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled* (Colossians 1:21).

The enmity was on our part, not God's. The alienation was simply in our minds; which began when our original parents believed the lie concerning God's nature advanced by the Adversary. In Eden's Garden God did not hide from Adam; rather, Adam hid in fear from God.



As the darkness of death made its initial debut into human existence, Adam and Eve fearfully hid themselves from their loving Creator. On Calvary the Lord Jesus Christ entered into that last, final, horrific stage of Adamic existence, piercing the darkest depths of death. He died; and with Him died Adam's carnal mind of alienation, and his desperate mortal dilemma.

*We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man* (Hebrews 2:9).

***If one died for<sup>2</sup> all, then were all dead*** (II Corinthians 5:14).

Just as all humanity was wrapped up in the first Adam's identity, so now all humanity is wrapped up in this last Adam's identity. As our first identity was with Eden's Adam, so our new identity is now woven into Calvary's Adam.

*God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself* (II Corinthians 5:19).

*Who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ* (II Corinthians 5:18).

### CONFIDENT EXPECTATION

In the days ahead we will remember that she is only sleeping, and that she will awake immortal and incorruptible in the morning.

*This corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (I Corinthians 15:53-54).*

Goodnight mom; you are greatly loved, and we will miss you dearly. Rest well; we all will see you in the morning!

### A NEW CHAPTER

Mom has had a big and honored presence in our lives and we have devoted most of the past fifteen years to her care. Please pray for our family as we close this important part of our lives. Things will be never be the same in her absence. We are now thrust into a very new chapter, and have great expectancy toward the Father.

<sup>2</sup>. Not the supposed "for" of *substitution*, but the "for" of *benefit*. This is not substitution, but identification and union.

*Precious is the time on Earth,  
Learning hope within God's Plan.*

*Ever Victorious in Christ's Own Worth,  
Ever safe in the Master's Hand.  
— James Botner*

## GRANDMOTHER CHRIS

by — Neal H. Locker

What can I say about Grandmother Chris that most of us don't already know?

She was one of the sweetest, most tender and loving people that my family and I have ever known.

Her relationship with Granddaddy was a true testament to Carol and myself of true unconditional love between partners, and that it is possible to love and adore your spouse with all of your heart, so much so that nothing else matters. It's not easy, but they proved it is possible even in our present selfish world.

Grandmother was truly like a mother to me for the last 30 years. She was so much a part of our lives that even my kids called her Grandmother and actually thought of her that way. At times she

would give Carol and me advice about marriage and love, and we could feel her sincerity.

For as long as I've known her I don't recall ever hearing her talk bad about anyone. I don't think that she ever hated anyone or anything.

Grandmother really loved her family, her friends & even those that weren't yet friends. But the most obvious thing about her was that she *really* loved the Lord.

God has blessed us with her sweet tenderness and in allowing us all to know the amazing and unforgettable woman that was Christine Pilkington.

We will sorely miss you Grandmother. We love you and will see you soon.

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## *O Love that Wilt Not Let Me Go*

George Matheson  
(1842-1906)

O Love that wilt not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be.

O light that followest all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray,  
That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day  
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
And feel the promise is not vain,  
That morn shall tearless be.

O cross that liftest up my head,  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be.

Matheson said that he composed the hymn on the evening of the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, 1882, in Glasgow, Scotland, at the age of 40. Something happened to him which caused him the most severe mental suffering. This hymn was the fruit of that suffering. The whole work was completed in five minutes, and never received any retouching or correction.

# PILKINGTON FAMILY

by – Shirley Hyde

God knows when you hurt.  
He understands all your fears.  
He knows when your heart is heavy,  
And He sees all your tears.

Just look to Him for courage,  
And the strength you need now.

He is your lifter-upper;  
When on your knees you bow.

Though discouraged and sad,  
Your soul to God can flee.  
He will uphold His promise,  
“My grace is sufficient for thee.”

Clyde, your mother was among the most loving, kindest people I ever met. She was always so very kind and tender to me. Nice memories of her. We'll see her again in what I expect will be a wonderful reunion. M.C. – *VA*

I extend my sympathies on the passing of your dear mother. ... She sounds like a remarkable woman, and her heritage in you and your sons speaks volumes for her character. How thankful those of us in the Body are for the ones she “gave” to the world. We pray for Father's comfort in these days of sadness. J.S. – *TN*

I know from your writings how much you loved her and valued the time you were able to spend with her. B.E. – *KY*

“How the mighty have fallen.” Thank God for our most precious expectation. D.B. – *Canada*

Sorry to hear about your precious Mother's passing. The “huge void” it causes to our humanity. J.B. – *WI*

She was a beautiful lady who loved the Lord. She will be missed. J.W. – *VA*

Christine was a wonderful, loving lady. R.U. – *PA*

Although we had to say goodbye to a precious lady, it will not be for long. We will see her again :) I count it such a blessing to have known Grandmother – a beautiful lady. Good-bye for now, Grandmother ... we love you and will miss you, but we look forward to the day that we meet again. N.H. – *VA*

Dear, Sweet, Grandmother, I will miss you always. R.S. – *VA*

She was such a warm and loving person and so delightful to be around. P.M. – *PA*

She's now asleep! When she wakes, its gonna be amazing! D.B. – *IL*

I share the mixture of feelings I know you are all having

at this time. Sadness that she's no longer bodily with us, but great joy knowing that when she awakens we will all be together once again and with the One Who saved us. She bore and raised one of the finest families of believers I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I can say that my life has been blessed immeasurably through them. B.C. – *HI*

What a lovely family your mother cultivated. Her legacy lives on in you and yours. May you be comforted by our wonderful Heavenly Father and by the knowledge that our family and many, many others hold you in our thoughts and prayers at this time. R.H. – *CO*

Christine was a wonderful person with a big heart! K.M. – *PA*

She will always have a special place in my heart and memories. M.A. – *FL*

Christine, see you “in the morning.” D.D. – *IL*

She was such a sweet wonderful lady! A.Y. – *AL*

Our expectation can make us smile through our tears, but weep we do, for we miss our dear ones just as much. G.B. – *Netherlands*

This is a great loss to all who knew your mom, because she was an exceptional lady. D.D. – *VA*

We will all one day have a happy re-union! D.S. – *IL*

Looking forward to seeing your mom again when she puts on incorruption and immortality. D.R. – *PA*

She was one wonderful person. F.C. – *VA*

We loved her and will miss her greatly! S.S. – *PA*

She was a great lady, and always had such a wonderful testimony for our Lord. I know all of you will miss her greatly. B.G. – *VA*

She was a great friend. I will miss her. S.H. – *VA*