



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 40
Issue 982

Without God's Sovereignty His Promises Are Unsure

Bible Student's Courses

Course 1: God / Unit 2 – The Sovereignty of God /

Lesson 8 – Without God's Sovereignty His Promises Are Unsure

by — Mark D. Vogt

Key Points:

Christianity often sees God as deficient..... 8275
IF God's will is not the *only* Sovereign free will at work, then anything that He promises can be considered as nothing more than sincere longing..... 8277

Christianity's God is so weak that His will is actually only wants and desires..... 8277
God's promises will come to pass, providing assurance and dispelling fear or doubt..... 8277

... We rely on the living God, *Who is the Savior of all mankind* ... (I Timothy 4:10, CV).

When we were all children and a parent made a promise to us, the reliability of that parent making good on that promise was as good as their *ability* to keep that promise.



As well as I Timothy 2:4.

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

Imagine, if you will, the God of the Scriptures being as unreliable as some parents are some of the time, and some parents most of the time. This would not be much of a God to rely upon.

The typical response to this verse is something along the lines that, "Yes God *wants* all to be saved, but this verse says only that God *desires* that all mankind be saved, and that is all it is, for He is powerless to affect and accomplish His will by Himself." This sounds a bit like Arminianism.¹

Christianity often sees God as deficient in some areas of His being, and therefore *needs* us to help Him along and to assist Him. In particular, He needs assistance in the great work of salvation, for you see, God can't accomplish this without our help, or so they think. One wonders what they do with I Corinthians 15:22.

Much of Christianity believes and proclaims that salvation is by the grace of God, but what they are re-

(continued on page 8277)

1. See Course 1, Unit 1, Lesson 6, "God is Not the God of Arminianism."

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

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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 (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);
- adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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ally saying is that God has done everything that He can do, and now it is up to the individual to “make a decision for Christ” and then God can save them, for without the individual’s willing participation, the transaction cannot be completed. In other words: God does His limited part, and the individual does the rest. In their understanding this is a transaction in need of completion.

However, the only way this could be possible is if God has limited sovereignty, meaning there are things that happen in His Universe over which He has no control. If this is true, then there are other *equally* powerful forces at work that He is at war with, thus making the Scriptures a lie.²

IF God’s will is not the only Sovereign free will at work, then anything that He promises can be considered as nothing more than sincere longing on His limited part, since any other equally powerful beings could counteract any decision that He made.

Christianity may be more than willing to concede that God has complete control over the physical universe – the stars, planets, rivers, forests and even aspects of humanity, but *for them* His control ends at the threshold of the individual’s supposed autonomy.

For example, I Timothy 4:10 tells us that the living God is the Savior of *all* mankind.

... we rely on the living God, Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers (CV).

This verse does not say that He is the *potential* Savior of all mankind. For some, this verse says each individual makes their own “free will” decision to accept Christ as their Savior. What if they don’t do this? Well, in their view, God is such a gentleman that He won’t force Himself on anybody.

Is this what we have? A god that is so impotent and powerless that his free will is actually only wants and desires? If true, then the conclusion would be that man’s “will” is more powerful than God’s Sovereign free will and the universe would be totally chaotic and headed for destruction.

However, God is absolutely sovereign over everything that exists – every thought, word and deed in His universe, and because this is the divine reality that we live in: ALL that He has promised in His Word will come to pass leaving no room for fear or doubt. This is the essence and power of His love.

A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps (Proverbs 16:9, KJV).

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” (Isaiah 46:10, KJV).

For out of Him, and through Him, and to Him, is all: to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen! (Romans 11:36, BSV). BSN

TOPICS:

Major: God; Sovereignty

Minor: Christianity; Salvation

2. See Course 1, Unit 2, Lesson 3, “God’s Sovereignty vs. Mankind’s Supposed ‘Free Will.’”

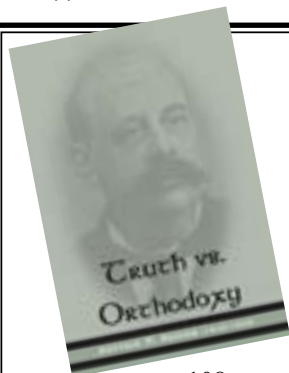
Truth vs. Orthodoxy

by – Arthur P. Adams

This is a collection of studies from the heartwarming and insightful pen of A.P. Adams (1847-1925). Chapter titles are:

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Theological Reversals
Free Will
What Is Man?
We See Jesus

The Man Christ Jesus
Jesus Christ the Son of God
Why Christ Died and Man’s
Doctrine of Substitution
“Substitution” and the “Vicarious
Atonement”



108 pages

See [order form](#) under “Adams.”



Tidbits of Truth #53

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

No Cause for Hurry

[Excerpt:] We wish to emphasize the fact that we do not want to dictate on points of doctrine. We hold no one's proxy, and claim no dominion over the faith of anyone. At the same time we shall continue to present new and unrecognized truth, supported by evidence and facts. There is not even the possibility of receiving fresh light if we shut our eyes, or only consider what we already know. It is our desire to furnish our readers with such facts as will enable them to escape from the traditional dogmas of the creeds and enter into some measure of appreciation of God as He is revealed in His own Word. So that it is most likely that all of our readers will find that which, to them, seems strange and unlikely. All that we ask is a careful, candid consideration—there is no cause for hurry—and then we will ask them, not to accept our views, or our position, but to believe that which is written in the Scriptures which we have been seeking to open and illuminate.

We cannot help bearing with those who hold that which we now see to be unscriptural, for we ourselves

probably believed the same once, and, of course we *had* to bear with ourselves! And, in the future, we hope to make further advances into the domain of truth. It ill becomes any of us, then, to let our various degrees of darkness obliterate those tender spiritual graces which ought to thrive more and more as the light displaces the darkness. Let there be a gracious and mutual spirit of forbearance and God will, in His own time, remove all hindrances to unity and fellowship.

Were we courting popularity and prestige or even desired to claim the wages which our Lord Himself has said are our due, it would be necessary for us to trim and compromise. But we trust God that He will open hearts to receive and support His despised truth.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 6 (1915)

The Church in Ruins

[To: D.R.] As with many of my books, *The Church in Ruins* is in need of revision. It was one of my earliest

Forgotten Truths Reaffirmed

Compiled by John H. Kessler

Author of *The Church which Is His Body* and *The Bride the Lamb's Wife*

A collection of excerpts supporting a dispensational approach of Scripture toward the Acts-28 position from 27 authors such as: Sir Robert Anderson, Lewis Sperry Chafer, A.C. Gaebelain, James M. Gray, I.M. Haldeman, H.A. Ironside, Clarence Larkin, F.E. Marsh, J. Eustace Mills, Harold P. Morgan, William L. Pettingill, Samuel Ridout, W. Graham Scroggie, W. H. Griffith Thomas, Leon Tucker and Charles H. Welch.

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4th Edition, facsimile.



71 pages

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under “Kessler.”

books, originally released 22 years ago in the BSN (in 2001) and then collected into book form in 2009.

When it was written I embraced the traditional view that II Timothy was Paul's last epistle written, which is a disregard of Colossians 1:25.

II Timothy, instead of being the last of *all* of Paul's epistles, was the last of his Acts period epistles. The "church" (*ecclesia*) that was in *ruins* then was the one of the previous administration. The present "church" of the current Secret Administration is a glorious success, of which the religious system and its "churches" have absolutely no relation.¹

What is written in my book *The Church in Ruins* can readily be corrected by understanding that it belongs to the previous administration. In fact, the "church" then, was actually "churches" in the plural, so perhaps the revised work will be entitled, *The Churches in Ruins*.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Kingdom in Acts 28:31

[To: J.B.] Since it was not given to Luke (who wrote the book of Acts) to reveal the Secret Administration or its details, we are thus not told the context of Paul's kingdom teaching after Acts 28:28. ...

So, for example, I spend a lot of time teaching about the kingdom, and we devote a lot of space in the

1. For more on this theme see, — ["The Body of Christ" or "The Church Which Is His Body"? A Compilation on the "One Body" of the Current Administration](#), on the [order form](#) under "Compilations."

BSN to the kingdom. This is because a proper understanding of the Kingdom in all of its aspects, its present postponement, and its contrast with our Secret Administration are absolutely essential to understanding God's present purpose. How much more so would this have been necessary for those whose hope had been in the coming "*Kingdom of the Heavens*."

Teaching the completed revelation would certainly not exclude teaching all aspects of the kingdom, including its timing, and contrast with God's present purpose.

There's a difference between properly teaching the kingdom and teaching that it was "*at hand*," and it would probably have been a harder concept for them to understand at that time than it is for us today.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

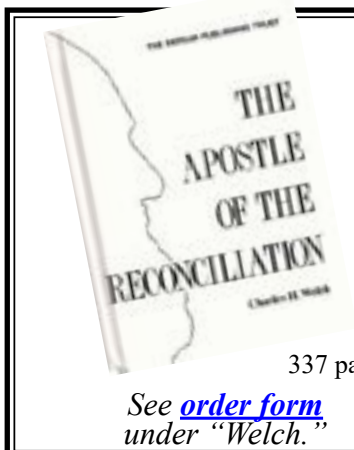
Believing Gentiles of the Acts Period

[Excerpt:] We learn from Acts 15 that the position of the Gentiles in the [Kingdom] Church was only authoritatively settled some twenty years after Pentecost, and it is interesting to observe that even that settlement was on the lines and in harmony with Old Testament prophecy (Acts 15:13-17).

— John H. Kessler (1914-1963)
[Forgotten Truths Reaffirmed²](#)

Authorities

- [To: J.H.] Thankfully, none of us are the authorities,
2. On the [order form](#) under "Kessler."



337 pages

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

The Apostle of the Reconciliation

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

This book shows the dispensational place of Acts and the earlier epistles of Paul. It follows a threefold division of Acts: 1. Restoration – restoring the Kingdom to Israel (1-9); 2. Reconciliation – typified by the vision of the sheet and the salvation of Cornelius (10-14); 3. Rejection – foreshadowed in Paul's first miracle (13) and actually fulfilled in the setting aside of Israel (28).

but we know exactly where absolute authority lies, and thus we trust that we will all continue to search the Scriptures persistently, and consistently adjust our understanding and teaching accordingly, regardless of our current “positions.”

For over 50 years I have steadily taken what I have found useful from students of the past. In doing so I believe that I have honored and helped to preserve their faithful labors.

It is my simple desire that you do the same thing with our materials. If you find something of value, build upon it in your own personal studies. If you find, on any issue, that we have gone too far – or not far enough – make adjustments accordingly.

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Fancied Apostles

The religious spirit has always been active even among those who have left the traditional system. Some even fancy themselves to be “apostles.” They think that their own limited, flawed understanding and teaching is the *standard* whereby others are measured. They imagine that they are somehow the *ordained yardstick* by which all others are judged, and that it is to their job to be the *doctrinal police*. They even attempt to justify their arrogance and pride by citing certain passages of Scripture. Thus under the

guise of such religiously abused words as “rebuke,” they surreptitiously bring others into bondage while speaking of freedom.

In II Corinthians 1:24 Paul wrote,

Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith you stand.

The *Concordant Version* reads,

Not that we are lording it over your faith.

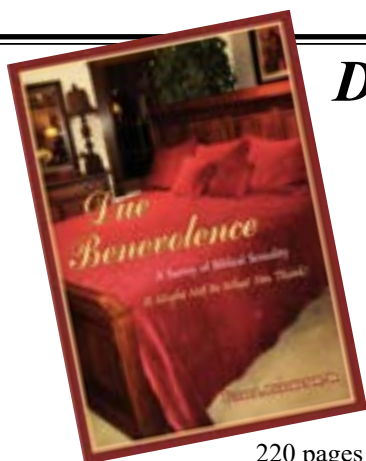
If *anyone* had the authority to lord over another’s faith, surely it would have been Paul, the apostle; but not even he assumed such audacious supremacy.

Those of us who walk by faith have the freedom from being dominated, manipulated, pressured and coerced into someone else’s own personal belief system – “*for by faith we stand.*”

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Answering Letters

[*Excerpt:*] The many kind and appreciative letters we are continually receiving would each be answered as they deserve were it in our power to do so. We trust no one will take offense on this score, for we greatly value and enjoy such tokens of the Lord’s hand even



Due Benevolence: A Study of Biblical Sexuality

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

(#3775) Think you have read all that there is on the subject of sexuality from the Bible? Think again! Religious moralists have taken the wonderful gift of human beauty and sexuality and made it something dirty and sinful. Much is at stake regarding truth, as well as the nature and character of God Himself. A groundbreaking work providing ...

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- A daring and valuable glimpse at the wonderful light just outside sexuality’s prison-cell door.

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

“When I began reading *Due Benevolence* it was so radical I felt ill at first; which is, as I’ve come to know, a perfectly normal reaction when your entire foundation shifts. I stuck with it, and

am glad I did so.” – *Canada*

“A Revelation on every page!” — Martin Zender

“An incredible book.” – *WA*

“Truly liberating.” – *PA*

if we cannot respond.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 10 (1919)

No Creature Can Hinder God

[*Excerpt:*] I no longer believe that God ever did create a being that was capable of hindering or frustrating any of His loving plans or purposes, and they that believe Satan ever accomplished anything along that line know not God, and many, very many, who profess to love and serve Him are actually ignorant of His wisdom, power, and love.

— Thomas E. McDaniel
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 22 (1931)

Enemies in Our Mind

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now has He reconciled (Colossians 1:21).

Jesus came to free us from the myth of our alienation. We *think* that we are alienated from God. It is an alienation that is in our minds – “*alienated and enemies in your mind.*”

The *Concordant Version* terms it this way, that we were “*estranged and enemies in comprehension,*” while the *Twentieth Century New Testament* renders it that we “*estranged from Him and hostile towards Him in our thoughts.*”

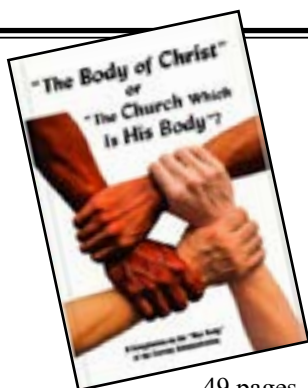
The simple fact is that alienation and enmity is clearly on our part, not God’s. God did not hide from Adam; rather, Adam hid in fear from God.

Mankind is desperately broken, empty and dark without God. Life is this lesson, a lesson that God alone is everything. Christ came, uniting Himself with us in our brokenness, emptiness and darkness. Calvary is the summit of this experience, where He united Himself with man all the way to the depths of our death. In all of this He provided our deliverance: His resurrection!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Religious Performance

[*Excerpt:*] The underlying foundation of all religion is performance – whether it’s a tribal dance around a campfire to satisfy the fire god, or a dead religious activity performed week after week by an evangelical Christian with the intent of impressing his God. It’s



49 pages

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

“The Body of Christ” or “The Church Which Is His Body”?

A Compilation on the “One Body” of the Current Administration

In the *Pentecost Administration*, during the Acts period, there were many *ecclesias*, in the plural – “*all the ecclesias*” (Romans 16:4, 16; I Corinthians 7:17; 14:33; II Corinthians 8:18; 11:28, CV). Each of these *ecclesias* were, in and of themselves “*the body of Christ*” – an integrated “*one body,*” while today in the *Secret Administration* there is but one single *ecclesia*, in the singular – “*the Ecclesia which is His Body*” (Ephesians 2:22-23, CV). This *ecclesia* is universal and not local. This *ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration* has no bearing whatsoever on locality, and is of necessity, the only “*One Body*” universal (Ephesians 4:4).

This “*One Body*” of Ephesians and Colossians (Ephesians 2:16; 4:4; Colossians 3:15) is the *Post-Acts* “*church,*” of which Christ *alone* is Head (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; 5:23; Colossians 1:24; 2:19). This is the *only Ecclesia* of the *Secret Administration.*

This short compilation has works from three authors: Tom L. Ballinger, G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962), and Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

all religious performance, and God isn't impressed by our performance.

– Steve McVey
Grace Amazing

Composite Woman of Proverbs 31

[To: D.R.] The view of a wife being prohibited from having a vocation outside of the home is ludicrous and is turned on its head by Proverbs 31.

This *composite* woman is called the “*virtuous woman*” (Proverbs 31:10, KJV, ED, REB). “*Virtuous woman*” is also translated “*wife of ability*” (CV), “*woman of worth*” (YLT, DAR), and “*capable wife*” (HCSB, ISV). Notice these points regarding her abilities (HCSB throughout):

- She is outside of the home locating merchandise, for example, “*wool*” and “*flax*,” and is “*like the merchant ships, bringing her food from far away*” (:13-14). In Old Testament times this was not as simple as taking a list and “going shopping.” This would have been a tremendous enterprise, requiring great wisdom, skill, agility and time.
- She not only oversees for her family’s provisions, but for those of her servants as well (:15, 21-22, 27).
- She has her own money and is actively involved in real estate acquisitions and various business endeavors – “*she evaluates a field and buys it; she plants a vineyard with her earnings*” (:16). Un-

doubtedly this is all done without her husband being present, or even being actively involved, for after all, “*the heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will not lack anything good*” (:11).

- She is a strong woman – “*she draws on her strength and reveals that her arms are strong*” (:17), who conducts her various businesses profitably, and is therefore an asset, and not a liability – “*she sees that her profits are good, and her lamp never goes out at night*” (:18).
- She is a creative entrepreneur – “*She extends her hands to the spinning staff, and her hands hold the spindle*” (:19). “*She makes and sells linen garments; she delivers belts to the merchants*” (:24).
- She is an active humanitarian, caring for the “*poor*” and “*needy*” (:20)
- She and her husband are a couple who are of renowned respect and influence (:23, 31).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

BSN

Topics:

Major: [No Cause for Hurry:] Study, Adjustable, Adjustment, Attitude, Fellowship, Growth [The Church In Ruins:] Books [Composite Woman of Proverbs 31:] Proverbs 31; Virtuous Woman [The Kingdom in Acts 28:31:] Acts 28:31 [Believing Gentiles of the Acts Period:] Acts, Gentile(s) [Authorities:] Attitude, Authority [Answering Letters:] Correspondence [Fancied Apostles:] Apostles, Attitude, Authority [No Creature Can Hinder God:] Sovereignty [Enemies in Our Mind:] Mind, Enemies [Religious Performance:] Religion, Works



72 pages

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

The King James Version – 400 Years of Bondage

1611-2011

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

1611 was not a high spiritual mark in the history of the church, the Body of Christ. Instead of being a grand year of the pinnacle of preservation or perfection of God’s Word, it was rather the sad depths of the subtle corrupting of God’s Word by the historic union of governmental and ecclesiastical politics.

An excellent book! – NC

Quite an eye opener to say the least! Very good! – NM