



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 40  
Issue 990

# Phileō and Agapē: Fondness and Love

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

### Key Points:

Agapē was a unique word to Scripture because it's Who God is..... 8339

Without divine revelation and manifestation we would not know anything about agapē..... 8341

Of the three Greek words commonly associated with “love,” only two<sup>1</sup> appear in the text of the New Testament: *phileō*<sup>2</sup> (*philos*<sup>3</sup>) and *agapē*<sup>4</sup> (*agapaō*<sup>5</sup>). *Phileō* is a verb, and *philos* its adjective. *Agapē* is a noun, *agapaō* is its verb.



finds its source in the subject, apart from any worthiness in its object.

Thus, the *Concordant Version*, and a few others, translates *phileō* as “fond,”<sup>6</sup> while some render it as “like.”<sup>7</sup>

### PHILEŌ

### AGAPĒ

*Phileō* speaks of warm, friendly affection. It conveys – fondness, liking, friendship, dearness, attachment. It arises between those having mutual interests (*i.e.*, family, community, business, pastimes, etc.). *Phileō* develops in growing relationships, requires mutual attention, is thus reciprocal in nature, and is conditional.

The *Concordant Keyword Concordance* gives its construction as “be-FOND,” and defines it as:

Responsive affection based on approval and regard, and in contrast with love [*agapē*], which

*Agapē*, on the other hand, is a word unique to the Scriptures themselves. It is unconditional, unconquerable, self-sacrificial, patient, forbearing, and ceaseless. *Agapē* is selfless, produced by supernatural empowerment, and therefore not humanly possible without divine enablement. Paul beautifully explores *agapē* in I Corinthians 13 by detailing its rich and wonderful qualities, as well as by noting its contrasts – the many things that it is not.

It has been aptly noted by Charles H. Welch (1880-1967) that “I Corinthians 13 is so well known as to  
(continued on page 8341)

1. The third is *eros*, from which we get the word “erotic.” It is the passion and physical intimacy of sexual love. While *eros* is clearly a gift from God, and is certainly described in detail both in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, the actual Greek word *eros* is not used in the Greek Scriptures. This may be because the Greeks tainted the word by using it as the name of one of their many mythological gods.
2. G5368, φιλέω.
3. G5384, φίλος.
4. G26, ἀγάπη.
5. G25, ἀγαπάω.

6. As well as *WET, MLT*.
7. *GNT, GWT, MNT, JMNT, TCNT*.

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### Bible Student's Notebook™

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 40, No. 990 – October 9, 2023

*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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Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Stephen Hill

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be thereby little known.” He then goes on to suggest that, “Perhaps the reading of that chapter in a new version may help the reader.” This is a wise and useful suggestion! – and not just “a new version,” but as many as possible!

A.H. Cremer (1834-1903) wrote concerning *agapē*,

There is something peculiarly sacred in this word “love” which we are considering, inasmuch as it is unknown outside of the Scriptures. ... God has given us a new word in *agapē*; for the language of men contained nothing high enough to denote this Love in its fullest conceivable form.<sup>8</sup>

*The Concordant Keyword Concordance* defines *agapē* love as:

A complex emotion arousing appreciation or delight in and desire for the pleasure of its object, as well as to please and promote its welfare; to be distinguished from affection, fondness [*phileō*], which is aroused by the qualities of its object, while love may go out to the utterly unworthy, and also from passion [*eros*] (not found in Scripture) between the sexes.

*Agapē* was a unique word to Scripture because it’s Who God is. It is His very nature, His very definition.

*God is love [agapē]* (I John 4:8, 16).

The literal rendering here is “*Theos is agapē*,” or going with the definition of *Theos*, “*Placer is agapē*.” It does

8. *Biblico-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek*, August Hermann Cremer (1834-1903), Professor of Theology at the University of Greifswald, translated by D.W. Simon and William Urwick (T. & T. Clark. 1872).

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not say that “Placer is *phileō*,” or “Placer is *eros*,” for both of these can ebb and flow, or even end. No, Placer’s very core of being is unconditional and ceaseless love (*agapē*).

Therefore, without divine revelation and manifestation we would not know anything about *agapē*.

Here are a few things we know of *agapē*:

*Agapē* defines Who God is (I John 4:8,16).

*Agapē* defines the relationship between the Placer (God) and His Son (John 17:26).

*Agapē* describes God’s sacrificial nature of Calvary (John 3:16; I John 3:16; 4:9,10).

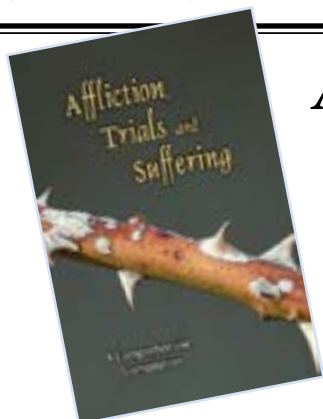
*Agapē* casts out all fear (I John 4:18).

*Agapaō* in us, is but the divine expression of God’s for us (I John 4:19; Romans 13:8).

*Agapētos* (“Beloved”) is that precious title of endearment by God, first used for our Lord (Matthew 3:17; 12:18; 17:5, etc.), and then of His saints (Romans 1:1; II Thessalonians 2:13; Colossians 3:12, etc.). **BSN**

### TOPICS:

**Major:** *Agapē*; Fondness; God; Love; *Phileō*  
**Minor:** *Eros*; Placer



## Affliction, Trials and Suffering

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# How Does God Manifest His Love?

## Bible Student's Courses

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by — Mark D. Vogt

*But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19, KJV).*

### Key Points:

We really don't know what we need! ..... 8342  
God knows what's best for us and will accomplish it. .... 8342

The process is motivated by God's boundless love. .... 8343  
You have no idea how much you are loved by God ..... 8343

Thankfully God does not give us what we want, but what His intention and will require. Since we really don't know what we need, we are quite vulnerable and subject to the whims of style, culture, relationships, peer pressure, entrenched family and societal mores, and almost an unlimited number of things which bear on our ability to see what is truth, and what is good for us.



However, God in His sovereign wisdom continually imparts to each individual that which will be beneficial for them. This impartation from God stems from His Logos, or His Blueprint for creation. For He is,

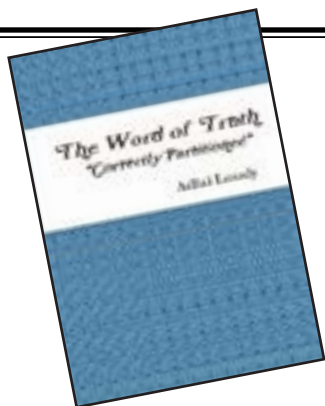
*... the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11, CV).*

We also are vulnerable to the "strategies of the Adversary" and "the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials" which we cannot fight in our own strength, so in His love He provides the "shield of faith" and the "complete armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10-16).

The essence of God is love. Hence, all that He does is out of love. God does not do one thing but that which is done in love. Just because it doesn't seem like that to us doesn't mean that it is not (Isaiah 55:8-9).

In the physical world, "white noise" is that phenomenon of many different frequencies impinging upon a listener. When this happens the listener can't discern what is helpful and what is harmful, or what is of no value.

In John 1:1-5 John painstakingly communicates clearly to the world that God is the "Word." This Logos is His Masterplan, and He is steadily working this plan. The driving force in working His plan is His love. Therefore, what at times seems disastrous to us, or to others, and seems as if nothing good could



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48 pages

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come of what is happening, God is surely at His perfect work – and this work is not just for the believer, but for the whole world – the prime example being the events at Calvary (Acts 2:23).

You can't judge a cake by looking at the separate ingredients before they are mixed together. What one must do is to wait until the cake is baked and the icing put on before one can judge it.

In Philippians 1:6 Paul says,

*Being persuaded of this very thing – that, He Who hath begun in you a good work, will perfect it, until the day of Jesus Christ (REB).*


This good work does not consist of rainbows and candy and sweetness. This work is difficult and is hard and, for a good portion of the time, seems to go on with no end in sight. Rest assured that “the cake is still in the 400° oven” and will eventually result in an end which brings glory to our Father, His Son and us (Romans 8:18, 30).

God's love is at work in this whole process, and if we have spiritual eyes to see we will understand this.

*For us, who love God, who are the called according to His purpose, there is an awareness that He is working all together for good (Romans 8:28, BSV).*

God is passionate about His work, and nothing will keep Him from completing it. God longs for the work of His hands.

*You yearn for the work of Your hands (Job 14:16, EB).*



**Commentary on the Revelation of St. John, the Divine**  
by — Thomas Whittemore (1800-1861)  
388 pages  
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He longs for that day when He will reveal to the universe the work of His hands through the instrumentality of Christ Jesus the Lord (Colossians 3:4).

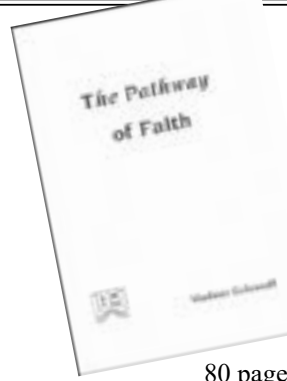
This whole process – devising, executing and bringing to a glorious conclusion “the purpose of the ages” (Ephesians 3:11) – is motivated by God's love for ALL of His creation, which includes every sentient creature He has ever created (Colossians 1:20; Philippians 2:10).

God loves us with an incredible passion that we can't even fathom. In fact, if you have ever experienced being on the receiving end of someone's passionate love toward you, just imagine it thousands of times more intense (*i.e.*, being Divinely perfected!). That is the boundless love of God toward us. He loves us beyond human conception, and we know that for sure because He gave us His Son (John 3:16; Romans 8:32).

*God, being rich in mercy, because of His VAST LOVE with which He loves us (Ephesians 2:4, CV). BSN*

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** God; Love  
**Minor:** Sovereignty



**The Pathway of Faith**  
— Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

Studies from Genesis 12-50. This writing presents the spiritual careers of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. God's dealings with these four patriarchs are rich in lessons of permanent value. With exquisite, artless simplicity they demonstrate the frailty of our frame, accentuate the gentle forbearance, and illustrate the inexhaustible grace of our heavenly Father.

80 pages  
See [order form](#) under “Gelesnoff.”

# Tidbits of Truth #55

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

## All of God’s Creatures Will Finally Be Happy

[*Excerpt:*] Nothing can be more contrary to the divine nature and attributes than for a God all-wise, all-good, all-powerful and all-perfect, to bestow existence on any being whom He foreknows must terminate in wretchedness and misery without respite of end. His goodness could never give birth to any one being, and much less to numberless beings, whose end He foresaw would be irretrievable misery; nor could even His justice inflict everlasting punishment.

God made all of His creatures finally to be happy; He could never make any whose end He foreknew would be misery everlasting. God is love; infinite benevolence alone prompted Him to action, and infinite benevolence combined with unerring wisdom, and supported by irresistible power, will infallibly accomplish its purpose in the best possible manner.

— Thomas Newton (1704-1782)  
*Dissertations on the Final State of Mankind*

## God’s Guarantee to Adam’s Race

[*Excerpt:*] The pattern of harvest, as established in the Old Testament, begins with “*firstfruits*,” then the main harvest, and finally the gleaning of the fields by the needy and destitute, assuring that not one kernel would be lost.

The very fact that we have borne the image of Adam guarantees that one will also bear the image of Christ. First the flesh, the earthy, then the spirit, the heavenly. First the man of earth, then the man of heaven. Thus Paul so confidently declared,

*As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly (I Corinthians 15:49).*

He could not more forcibly present God’s guarantee that the very fact that you exist as a human being is proof and assurance that one day you will bear the image of God’s heavenly Adam, Jesus Christ. God always finishes the work He begins, including that of making man in His own image which He began in the Garden of Eden.

The “*Last Adam*” is not an idle poetic expression that Paul used referring to Jesus. As the context of his words show, he intended to establish the fact that, just as we all sprang from Adam the first man, and therefore bear his image, so in the very same way the “*Last Adam*” is the first spiritual man. The first Adam was the first of the old and earthy creation; the “*Last Adam*” is the first of the new and heavenly, or spiritual creation.

In Romans 5, the inevitability of bearing the image of the Man from Heaven is underscored. Jesus is the firstborn of the new creation just as Adam was the firstborn of the old creation. The work of Jesus far surpasses the work of Adam. What Adam did unto death, Jesus much more accomplished unto life. Jesus, the “*Last Adam*,” will make alive all who died in the first Adam.

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

— Bert Bauman (1925-2008)  
[\*The Gospel\*](#) (page 16)

## The Freedom of Truth

*You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).*

Truth liberates, while error enslaves; and the bondage that comes from error is far more binding than that of a physical prison.

(see **TIDBITS**, last page)



## Editor's Desk

### The "Pressing"

In the last issue of the *Bible Student's Notebook* we considered the subject of depression.

Looking back, in many ways these past few years seem to have been the most challenging years: lingering economic and supply chain issues, rampant inflation, adjustments on how family members have had to find a way to make a living in order to labor in this work, increased ministry responsibilities, heightened interest (emails, phone calls, mail, questions, orders, etc.), not to mention the aging process (*death working in us*).

Through it all we have constantly been reminded of Paul's words,

*For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were **pressed out of measure, above strength**,*<sup>1</sup>

1. "inordinately burdened, over our ability" (II Corinthians 1:8, CV); "exceedingly, beyond power, were we weighed down" (REB); "exceedingly weighed down, and felt overwhelmed" (WT); "exceedingly burdened above our power" (YLT); "completely overwhelmed – beyond our strength" (HCSB).

*insomuch that we despaired even of life* (II Corinthians 1:8).

Nonetheless we are assured that this *pressing*, like that of the pressing of the grapes, produces that "*which cheers God and man*" (Judges 9:13). In Philippians 2:17 Paul uses the illustration of Israel's *drink offering* (libations), recognizing, as do we, that our sacrifices are secondary and supplemental to the main sacrifice of our faithful co-laborers.

*If I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you* (HCSB).

Thus, the divine consumption of life,

*I will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved* (II Corinthians 12:15).

This "*spending*," which Paul sacrificed, is the Greek word *δαπανάω* (*dapanaō*), a powerful word meaning "to expend"<sup>2</sup> (SEC, G1159), "to spend utterly, to spend out, to spend wholly."<sup>3</sup> Thus, it is translated in the *Concordant Version* as "*bankrupted*."

*Yet with the greatest relish shall I spend and be bankrupted for the sake of your souls, even if*

2. "To consume; to dissipate; to waste; as, the oil of a lamp is expended to burning." – Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828).
3. A.T. Robertson (1863-1934), *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (1930).



185 pages

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## Wife Loving: The Husband's Paramount Privilege

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This book is about Christ-mentored husbandry; a look at husbands' important and honored role of loving their wives. So lofty and divine is its pursuit, Paul presents none other than Christ Himself as the mentor: "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church.*"

"What wonderful thoughts. They are so true and practical. I love it!" – *The Netherlands*  
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"Powerful, powerful stuff! As a woman I am honored by it. I am deeply grateful for your boldness to honor women and to portray the marriage relationship as simply yet profoundly as God intended." – CA



loving you more exceedingly diminishes your love for me.

Through all of this we come to realize that Paul did not view himself as the “main attraction,” but as the willing sacrifice unto *bankruptcy*: a libation being broken and spilled out.

### THE BEARING OF OUR SOUL

If we bore our own soul, openly and uncensored, we may discourage others, or be viewed as complaining. An ever-increasing trial of faith, on every front, to give up and quit, seems relentlessly pressing beyond measure on our very soul. Yet, we know that we are not alone it all of this, and that Father has long given us the supernatural “I-can’t-help-its.” He is doing unimaginably important work through us. We do not mean to vent, but to bear our heart and soul, and relay the importance of our labors in the spiritual realm.

*Therefore, my dear brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain (I Corinthians 15:58).*

Thus, while we may be “troubled on every side” (I Corinthians 4:8), we find steadfast strength in Father’s absolute, wise and loving sovereignty. Thus, our mainstay has always been, and continually remains – HIM.

Father always knows best!

Humbly and gratefully yours,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.  
The Pilkington Abbey  
Paint, PA

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Believer’s Walk; Drink Offerings; Pressings  
**Minor:** Deportment; Humility; Life; Sovereignty; Suffering

**TIDBITS** (continued from page 8344)

Truth has never been popular. The masses have never possessed it and its freedom. The entire world around us lies in the deep bondage of error. They are, “*ever learning, and never able to come to the realization of the truth*” (II Timothy 3:7). Theirs are, “*perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth*” (I Timothy 6:5). **BSN**

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** [All of God’s Creatures Will Finally Be Happy:] Consummation; God; Love [God’s Guarantee to Adam’s Race:] Consummation; Firstfruits [The Freedom of Truth:] Freedom; Truth



100 pages

## Suffering: God’s Forgotten Gift

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Two gifts given to the believer are mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29. The first is “to believe on Him.” This is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God. Those who possess it may not even fully recognize it as a gift from Him, but indeed faith is God’s wonderful gift to us. Faith is a rich gift from God, but there is also another gift from God to the believer, mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29, that is equally as glorious. The second gift is “also to suffer for His sake.” This, too, is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God as well, but those who possess it often do not fully recognize it for what it is. Indeed, suffering for His sake similarly is God’s wonderful gift to us. Paul teaches us to embrace this second gift as well as we do the first!

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

“After over 40 years of seriously searching the Scriptures with the aid of writings from men of many varied walks, no literature has so profoundly changed my life as this book. It needs to be in the hands of every believer!” – **LA**

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