



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 40
Issue 992

The Goal

by — F.E. Morriss (1874-1956)

Key Points:

As God's creations, we have no right to question His actions or intentions, as He is the ultimate authority..... 8355
God has always intended to be a blessing to all nations and provides a means of salvation for all through the blood of Christ.

This counters any notion that God is selective or partial in His plan for salvation..... 8355
God's avowed purpose is to reconcile all, and if just one is missing, then He has failed.....

If God can be likened to a potter, who makes vessels for all sorts of purposes, honorable and dishonorable, and who, in the process of making, breaks some, and casts the parts aside (Romans 9:21; cf. Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 18:3-6), can we, who are His creatures, accuse Him of injustice, regardless of whatever use He sees fit to make of us? By no means! Yet, from our human viewpoint we might, and sometimes we do that very thing.



This takes us back to Adam and brings up the question of salvation of mankind from Adam to Abraham, the just and the unjust. "Will God save the ungodly?" the question has been asked. Yea! Verily, Christ died for the sins of the world. When are the unrighteous before Abraham, the unrighteous from Abraham to the cross, the unrighteous from the cross to His second coming to the earth, and the unrighteous from then right on, through to the consummation (when death will have been abolished) to be reconciled?

If God chose not to speak of an earthly kingdom or of a celestial destiny to the denizens of the earth before Abraham and Paul (who were used, respectively, as a channel of blessing to Israel and to guests of their table, and as the herald of the church which is His body), who, among the nations, had reason to question God's choice, or the righteousness of it?

God, as the potter, will take up each one in his own order (I Corinthians 15:23), and to each one prove that He is righteous, and, being righteous, will set all right. Then, because all have seen the outcome of God's plans, we shall hear no more discordant voices from the pottery – either from those created to fill honorable places, those created to fill dishonorable places, or those broken because imperfectly formed – for we shall know as we are known.

God has shown, even though men were blind and saw it not, that He intended to be a blessing to all nations; that He provides a means of salvation for all men, the blood of Christ, that He might become "All in all" and All things to all men (I Corinthians 15:28; cf. Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:20).

Those who have wrested the Scriptures to shut the door to the presence of God in the faces of less for-

(continued on last page)

We do not question His right to have been God to Israel. We do not question His right to bring the church to Him. Then why should we question His right to reconcile all of His creatures to Himself? He has said that all died in Adam, and that all shall be made alive in Christ (I Corinthians 15:22).

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 40, No. 992 – October 23, 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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Tidbits of Truth #56

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

Control of Political Power

[Excerpt:] We are tempted to think that this world would be much better if the saints could only get control of the political power, or if the highest offices were filled only with men of God. But the Scriptures do not contemplate any such condition, and give no instructions for ruling, only for obeying. ...

The governments today have many honest, capable men, but they find themselves thwarted by the unseen spiritual powers which are leading mankind in opposition to God and His Christ.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 41 (1950)

The “Many” of Romans 5:15

When Paul uses the expression “many,” he is not intending to delimit the denotation. The scope of “many” must be the same as the “all men” of :12 and

:18. He uses “many” here, as in :19, for the purpose of contrasting more effectively “one” and “many,” singularity and plurality – it was the trespass of “one” ... but “many” died as a result.

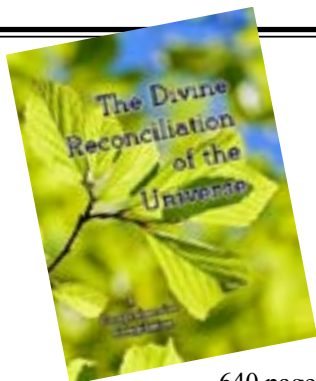
— John Murray (1741-1815)
Epistle of Paul to the Romans

Psalm 90:3

You turn man to destruction; and sayest, “Return, you children of men.”

It is God Who gives man his experience with evil, for it is He Who turns them to destruction. God acquaints humanity with brokenness, with vanity, with ruin; and He does so to bring them back to Himself.

Adam *had it all* in the garden: health, beauty, paradise – all goodness from the hand of God; but the one thing he lacked was appreciation. He could not be thankful for health, for he never had experienced sickness. He could not be thankful for the provision



640 pages

The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: A Comprehensive Compilation

This work does not contend for a mere doctrine; its authors are championing the revealed character of God. The gloomy cloud of theology has obscured Him from us for far too long. Tradition's chilling mists have cooled our enjoyment of His power, wisdom and grace. Religions have libeled His name, repelling the instinctive responses of our heart. Christianity has left us unable to defend His honor in the presence of His enemies. Now all of this is gone and we are able to vindicate Him in all His ways before all His creatures! – *Adapted from the Preface*

This ultimate collection of 110 works by 46 authors spans nearly 200 years. It is an extensive compilation that is essential for every library. Authors include: Arthur P. Adams, Thomas Allin, Alan Burns, E.H. Clayton, Bob Evelyn, Phillip Garrison, Vladimir Gelesnoff, J.W. Hanson, Joseph E. Kirk, A.E. Knoch, Arthur C. Lamb, Aaron Locker, Adlai Loudy, Andrew Maclarty, R.B. Macnab, Erasmus Manford, H.W. Martin, Robert McLaurine, Robert McMahon, William Mealand, André Piet, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Frank Neil Pohorlak, George W. Quinby, William C. Rebmann, F.H. Robison, A.E. Saxby, Hannah Whitall Smith, André Sneider, James Strahan, E.F. Stroeter, Thomas Talbott, Ray Van Dyke, and Peter Woodhouse.

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of food, for he had never been hungry. Men learn the truths of God by their contrasts with evil.

According to Psalm 90:3 it is God Himself Who turns mankind to “destruction,” and He does so, so that He can say to them “Return,” and bring them back to Himself. After all,

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

According to Psalm 90, who is He bringing back to Himself? Well, the *King James Version* translates this exact same phrase, “children of men,” as “sons of Adam” in Deuteronomy 32:8. All of the offspring of Adam – every last one of his descendants – belong to God and will be returned to Him.

THIS is the wise and grand plan of “the God of love” (II Corinthians 13:11)!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Elohim: The Plural Form of El

In order to arrive at a satisfactory reason for the use of the plural form we must understand the meaning of Elohim, or Aleim, as it is in the ancient, unpointed Hebrew. It is only in certain relations that this idiom was used. In invoking the aid of a superior, or when subjects addressed their king, the plural was deemed a mark of respect. Is there anything in the name to suggest such a relation? An analysis of the title, and a study of the family of words to which it belongs, will show that Elohim means the Invoked, the Deity to Whom all mankind instinctively appeals for aid in moments of stress, ir-

respective of race, language or religion. This being so, the idiom is in perfect accord with the custom of the people and the usage of the language.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
“The Plural Form of God’s Name”
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 24 (1933)

The Trial of Faith

The Lord Jesus Christ said to Simon Peter:

Behold, Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not (Luke 22:31-32).

Concerning which, Peter later wrote in his first epistle:

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary ... as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith (I Peter 5:8-9).

Peter also puts the trial of faith in a value perspective:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:7).

Peter places the trials of faith above the value of gold. What a viewpoint! That is the viewpoint of faith. We would surely not grumble, murmur, and complain about receiving an abundance of gold. Neither would faith grumble, murmur, and complain over the valu-



Death, the Intermediate State and the Resurrection (A Comprehensive Compilation)

Are you afraid of death or “hell”? Well, you needn’t be. After all, Christ has the keys to both of them. Authors include:

Arthur P. Adams (1847-1925), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), Joseph E. Kirk (1903-1974), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Aaron Locker, Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Charles H. Pridgeon (1863-1932), William B. Screws (1884-1961) and André Sneidar.

268 pages

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

able trials of our faith!

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Romans 13:3

“Not a terror to good works”

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same.

Civil authorities, too numerous to mention, have been the persecutors of those who did good, and have favored those who did evil. The facts of past and present are such that it is impossible for you, me, or anyone else to believe that rulers have been a terror to only those who did wrong. It is evident then that these rulers are not civil authorities.

Often the rulers of this world have heaped their honors upon the workers of evil, while at the same time they have degraded and debased the workers of good. Before Paul wrote these words, he stated that he had frequently been in prison. This must have been at the hands of the civil authorities. How then could he tell others, “Do good and they will praise you?”

If these words of Paul were of civil authorities, then he made a great mistake in uttering them, since nothing but persecution came from the Roman civil authorities upon those who did good.

— Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

The Word of Truth magazine, September 1941

God Is Completely in Charge and Responsible

[To: M.R.] Yes, indeed, God is God – alone – and is completely in charge and responsible for all things (Isaiah 45:6-7). He *has* made us, *is* making us, and *will* bring us perfectly to who He has wisely designed us to be (Philippians 1:6). It is ALL in His hands – alone (Acts 17:28).

All have been subjected to the slavery of sin (Galatians 3:22), vanity (Romans 8:20), corruption and death (Romans 8:21). No one asked for this, it was against

our will (Romans 8:20; 7:18); but it is all temporary, and our future is bright and glorious (Romans 8:21).

For those of us who know God, in the truth of Who He really is, we can relax – without regret and guilt, since all is out of Him (Romans 11:36).¹

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

His Own Blessed Will

What God purposes He brings to glorious fruition. By specific steps and by wholly adequate means He realizes all that He purposes. ... This, after all, is God's own Universe in which He has sovereign right to do after the dictates of His own blessed will.

— Lewis Sperry Chafer (1871-1952)

Systematic Theology

Volume III, page 350 (1947)

The Whole Universe in Harmony with God

[*Excerpt:*] Many plain direct statements in the Sacred Scriptures declare that the purpose of God through our Lord Jesus Christ is to bless all humanity and to bring the whole universe into harmony with Himself.

How can this be if myriads of mankind whom He so loves were to be kept alive forever in hopeless misery? And what kind of a god could love the sinner with Calvary love until he died, and then leave him in indescribable suffering eternally?

— G.T. Stevenson

[*Time and Eternity: A Biblical Study*](#)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [Control of Political Power:] Government; Politics [The “Many” of Romans 5:15:] Many; Romans 5:15 [Psalm 90:3:] Destruction; Psalm 90:3 [Elohim: The Plural Form of El:] Elohim; Genesis 1:26-27; Trinity [His Own Blessed Will:] Sovereignty [The Trial of Faith:] Faith; Trials [Romans 13:3:] Romans 13:3 [God Is Completely in Charge and Responsible:] Responsibility; Sovereignty [The Whole Universe in Harmony with God:] Consummation

1. Two books deal with these issues and should be a great help along these lines:

– [Divine Lockup](#)

– [Being OK with Not Being OK](#)

Both books are on the [order form](#) under “Clyde Pilkington”.

The Fate of Infants

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

Key Points:

Mothers! Fathers! Our departed dead are in much better hands than ours! He, in Whose care they now are, is infinitely wiser

and kinder and more compassionate than we are!..... 8358

Many a mother's heart has been wrung with agony, and many a father's soul has been tortured with distress at the thought of their unbelieving children going into the orthodox hell, and judgment, and the Lake of Fire. Instead of fleeing to Him for comfort in their terror, they turn away from Him, because He it is Who threatens and inflicts the cruel suffering which they imagine will be the portion of their beloved offspring.

Parents have been taught that they are far more compassionate than God. The false doctrines they have imbibed change God from love to hate, from compassion to fiendish ferocity. Even those who have learned of His love, and have tasted of His grace, are disturbed because no special revelation has been given as to the fate of infants and children. Many still think that hell is unutterable torment for all unbelievers, even the newborn babe, and that judging is an unbearable experience for an innocent child, and that the Lake of Fire is excruciating and endless torture for an immature minor. All of these seem so unthinkable severe that God cannot be loving, or kind, or just, or even tolerable in His treatment of the young who have left this life and their sorrowing parents.

Death is the portion of all, even infants, no matter how innocent or blameless, whether they have done much evil or none that we can see – and, like all of the dead, infants figuratively sleep, and will continue to do so until their resurrection. Then they will be roused in order to be prepared, not for eternal torment, but for salvation, justification, vivification, reconciliation.

Mothers! Fathers! Our departed dead are in much better hands than ours! He, in Whose care they now are, is infinitely wiser and kinder and more compassionate than we are! This is true, whether

it concerns believers or unbelievers, whether babes or the mature. He created them for His own glory, and this demands that, eventually, He save them, and reconcile them, according to His Word. *They* have little to lose compared with Him. He will lose His great Name, and will forfeit His glory, if a single one of His creatures is finally lost. More than that, His inspired Word must be fulfilled to the minutest item. Will He not keep the greatest of all His promises, and, through the sacrifice of His Beloved Son, reconcile every one of His creatures and become their "All"?

BSN

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 34 (1943)
"Human Destiny"

(abridged & edited)

Note: Knoch understood that infants who died will be resurrected at the Great White Throne, a view which we have not included here. However, Otis Q. Sellers saw their resurrection to be during "the Kingdom of the Heavens." This view was shared with our readers in [Bible Student's Notebook 976](#), "Little Children Raised."

TOPICS:

Major: Children; Death; God; Love; Resurrection

Minor: Hell; Judgment; Lake of Fire; Salvation of All

The Personal Study Journal



With 1,200 lined pages, this Bible-looking journal is great for taking study notes. It is 8.75×6×1 and is bound in a stylish black leather cover with silver gilding.

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See [order form](#) under "Study Tools."

What Became of the Saints Roused at Christ's Resurrection?

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

In Matthew 27:52-53 we are told that,
... the tombs were opened. And many bodies of the reposing saints were roused, and, coming out of the tombs after His rousing, they entered into the Holy City and are disclosed to many.

This is one of the supernatural signs that accompanied the death of our Lord, which give us a flashlight view of its powerful effects.

First the curtain of the temple is rent in two from above, to signify that God has now removed all barriers between Himself and Israel. Then all is shaken to show that a permanent basis has been provided for His blessings (Hebrews 12:27). The bodies of the saints were roused to indicate the abolition of death; but they remained in the tombs until His own rousing, for saints in Israel who receive life from His death are not manifested until He appears. The expression "Holy City" is striking, for Jerusalem had just crucified the Messiah, hence was in acts *unholy*. It points forward to the time when all of Israel's saints will be roused to enter the Jerusalem of the coming Kingdom. Thus, the foremost function of this occurrence

is to give us a picture of the power of Christ's death and resurrection.

The literal facts shed little light on the resurrection, and none on the death state. Just as Jairus' daughter, and the widow of Nain's son, and Lazarus of Bethany were roused from the dead, and restored to mortal life such as they had before, so with these. We do not know what became of Lazarus or of the others, except that, in due time, they also died. Not one left the least hint of any experience in the fictitious "intermediate state," although that should have been their chief subject of conversation if there were such.

None of these was vivified, for Christ the Firstfruit alone has this honor. [They will again be roused "in the coming eon, [with] life eonian" (Luke 18:30).]

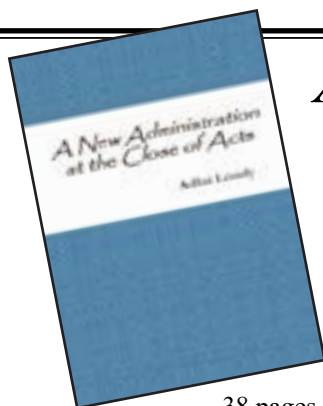
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(edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Death; Matthew 27:51-52; Resurrection

Minor: Christ Jesus



38 pages

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

A New Administration at the Close of Acts

by — Adlai Loudy (1893-1984)

God is conducting His affairs with mankind in an orderly series of dispensations and administrations. This study is a comparison of the Pentecostal and Readjustment Administrations, "in that era," with the Secret Administration, which is "now," revealing many irreconcilable differences which cannot be mixed without perverting the plain, unmistakable teaching of the Scriptures and causing untold confusion and spiritual loss.

THE GOAL (continued from front page)

tunate ones, made to fit into God's plan as darkness in order to make a contrast with those in light, may wonder why they had not seen God as a truly righteous God instead of a vindictive God, Who would be pleased to stand on a heavenly eminence, surrounded by a few choice ones while He gloated over Satan, causing untold sufferings to a greater number of God's creatures in an eternal pit of fire and brimstone than God, Himself, was able to draw to Himself by His great love.

If men and women could ascertain from the Scriptures God's goal – His eonian purpose – to Head up the Universe in Christ, and Himself become "All in all" to all, what beauty there would be, instead of the fearful and black picture which has been painted of Him by most of the sects!

But I am asked: What about Judas, and Satan, and the beast and the false prophet, and God's arch enemies? I have read of many who have been pardoned by Governors and Presidents. Men, themselves, see that lenience ought to be practiced in applying their rigid laws of life for life, blood for blood. However, they seem not to see that, although there is no remission of sins except by the shedding of blood, the shedding of the blood of Christ is fully efficacious, *for all*.

God's avowed purpose is to reconcile all, and if just one is missing, then He has failed. God, Who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), has promised that you shall participate in that reconciliation. God is seeking your good, and will use it eventually to His glory.

God loves the world (John 3:16), and purposed, from before His first creative act, the eventual reconciliation of all men to Himself (II Corinthians 5:19) at the consummation, when the evidence of His all-abiding love will be in full fruitage. Rejoice in that fact. **BSN**

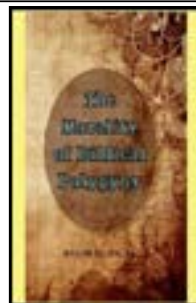
— *The Differentiator*, Vol. 6, No. 2, p. 15-16
March-April, 1944

(edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Consummation; Reconciliation; Salvation of All; Sovereignty

Minor: God; Love



The Morality of Biblical Polygyny

by — William F. Luck, Sr.

28 pages (see [order form](#) under "Other Authors")

This is an amazing, courageous, contemporary work. William Luck is the son of Moody Bible Institute's Dr. G. Coleman Luck, Sr., Chairman of the Department of Theology, and a capable biblical scholar in his own right.

"God didn't ask me my opinion about the issue. He expected me to represent His. I've tried. If you can prove I'm mistaken, I'll be the first to thank you. But I'm not holding my breath in the meanwhile." – the Author, from the Introduction

"To date [over twenty years after its original publication], I find the arguments 'pro' quite superior to those 'con.'" – the Author, from the Conclusion

- The Background
- Laws That Imply the Moral Propriety of Polygyny
- Passages That Appear To Prohibit Polygyny
- The Association of Polygyny with Other Evils
- Alleged Prohibitions of Polygyny
- The Implications of "Adultery" in the "Vice Lists"
- Questions Concerning the Possibility of Moral Polygyny



Divine Lockup

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

This work deals scripturally with God's sovereignty in the midst of humanity's current condition of, and future deliverance from, unbelief, sin, vanity and corruption. Without question, for all creation, the best is yet to come.

66 pages

See [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."