



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume X
Issue 233

The Real Work of God

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

... Don't be weary in well doing; for in due season you will reap, if you faint not (Galatians 6:9).

While the world of “Christian Service” goes on with its endless activities of “ministry for the Lord,” God is quietly, steadily and faithfully at work in your life.



Anyone can participate in a religious activity (so-called “Christian service”) for an hour or two here and there and go home and relax; but true ministry is about LIFE, it is *sacrificially lived in real life* – in our homes, at work, at play, anywhere we are – every day.

As impressive as all of the religious activities may appear to be, it is often little more than religious fluff. True ministry is intensely personal, borne out of self-sacrifice for another. It is freely being spent (used up) in the situation of life where Father has placed us, and regardless of how you may “see” things or “feel” about the value of your personal sacrifice, it is in the silent, unrecognized giving of yourself and your daily life in the seemingly routine details of the day that you are used in **His** *real* ministry. It is in your regular avenue of living that your role as a “Son of God” is manifested in the *real* “work of God”!

Sacrificial living is about your Father doing His work in you. It is not about recognition, display, grandeur or applause. It is about responsibility, devotedness and faithfulness “*in a few things*” and with those who have the appearance of being “*least of these.*” There are many places of pretense of ministry; but your daily life is EXACTLY where Dad is doing His work – in those circumstances and activities that might appear to you to be just the daily duties of routine.

I am not talking here about an occasional “act of service,” but of your daily LIVING SACRIFICE for Him in every detail and circumstance of life, being His available vessel – His channel of care and love – in EVERY SINGLE SITUATION, EVERY SINGLE DAY, day in and day out.

Many Christians are busy with their convenient “churches,” “ministries,” “fellowships,” “Bible studies” and “serving the Lord.” Sadly, though, things are NOT what they always appear to be. The life of our Father is about real life – everyday life –

(see **REAL**, page 2207)

Your life is what true ministry is all about. It is not something that you “go and do.” It is who you are as our Father lives His life in and through you. Your daily sacrifice is what true ministry is all about. To give your life as a living sacrifice to God is to experience tremendous hardship, care, burden, heartache, difficulty, trial and inconvenience.

The Real Work of God	2201
Editorial	2203
Choosing to Do Hard things	2206
Why Bother Proclaiming the Gospel?	2206
Truth Withheld	2207
Eternal Death	2208
Church Membership (Quote).....	2208
Faithfulness (Quote).....	2208

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume X, No. 233 – March 23, 2010

This weekly 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 (1 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 (1 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 forgiveness of 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; 1 Thessalonians 5:21).

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

SUBSCRIPTION

Electronic Version (e-mailed to you)

1 Year (52 issues) – \$10; 2 Years (104 issues) – \$20

Printed Version (mailed to you)

½ Year (26 issues) – \$25; 1 Year (52 issues) – \$50

PATRIARCHS

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.

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010

Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshef.com

www.BibleStudentsNotebook.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor

(clyde@studyshef.com)

André Sneider – Managing Editor

Rick Lemons – Associate Editor

Department Managers

Clyde L. Pilkington, III – Office

Nathan H. Pilkington – Shipping

Copyright © 1989-2010 Pilkington & Sons

GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Do you know of someone who is hungry for truth? Who loves to study the Bible? Who is disillusioned by traditional Christianity? Who thinks outside the box? If so, why not give them a gift subscription to the *BSN*? It could be a gift that could change their life!

BOUND BSN ISSUES

We have bound past issues of the *BSN*, only \$19.95 each. The more recent issues of the *BSN* contain our most recent understanding of Biblical issues. Therefore, when ordering volumes of the *BSN*, we would encourage you to order the latest volumes and work your way backwards.

Volume 9 (Issues 201-225) (#8286)	Volume 8 (Issues 176-200) (#8287)
Volume 7 (Issues 151-175) (#8288)	Volume 6 (Issues 126-150) (#8289)
Volume 5 (Issues 101-125) (#8290)	Volume 4 (Issues 76-100) (#8291)
Volume 3 (Issues 51-75) (#8292)	Volume 2 (Issues 26-50) (#8293)
Volume 1 (Issues 1-25) (#8295)	

www.studyshef.com

Find many rare books and Bibles at our 24/7 online bookstore. Gift certificates are also available.

YOUR EDITOR'S BOOKS

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. has 10 books rich in Bible study material:

- *The Believer's Warfare: Wearing the Armor of Light in the Darkness of this World* (#7000) \$9.95
- *The Church in Ruins: Brief Thoughts on II Timothy* (#3325) \$9.95
- *Due Benevolence: A Survey of Biblical Sexuality – It Might Not Be What You Think!* (#3775) \$24.95
- *God's Outsiders: The Called-Out Ones – A Biblical Look at God's Ecclesia* (#4125) \$9.95
- *Heaven's Embassy: The Divine Plan & Purpose of the Home* (#5675) \$19.95
- *I Choose! Living Life to Its Fullest* (#4120) \$16.95
- *Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News* (#3750) \$9.95
- *The Plowboy's Bible: God's Word for Common Man – The Story of God's Amazing Book* (#4425) \$19.95
- *The Salvation Of ALL: Creation's Final Destination – A Biblical Look at Universal Reconciliation* (#7001) \$19.95
- *Suffering: God's Forgotten Gift* (#5150) \$9.95

BOOKLETS & LEAFLETS

We currently have 215 booklets & leaflets. These make good reading, as well as great tools for sharing truth with others. **Complete Set** (#1001) \$50/Pack.

OUR ONLINE ARTICLES

Read past articles from the *Bible Student's Notebook* online:

<http://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/Articles.htm>

DAILY e-MAIL GOODIES™

Sign up for our free daily emails that contain short thoughts on Biblical themes:

www.DailyEmailGoodies.com

FACEBOOK & SKYPE

We post our *Daily Email Goodies*, as well as new book notices on *Facebook*. Search for "Study Shelf" for our literature ministry and "Clyde Pilkington Jr" for the editor's personal profile. Your editor is also available on *Skype* – user name is "Salvation of All."

OUR BLOGS

We have 14 blogs on various subjects. To view these blogs visit:

<http://www.pilkingtonandsons.com/ourblogs.htm>

JOINTS AND BANDS

Are you looking for other believers with whom you can enjoy fellowship and study? We have set up a blog for just this purpose.

- (1) Go to www.JointsandBands.com
- (2) Choose your state on the right-hand side.
- (3) Add a post with your name and contact information.

Strictly Personal

Greetings, precious saints!

I have not written a personal note to you in quite some time. Things just have been very busy around here this winter. When I wasn't working, or shoveling snow, I tried to take advantage of the quiet season to finish up a number of heart-pressed book projects.

Some have reported that they have missed my personal words in the *BSN*. Hopefully you will see from me more often in this way.

"How Can I Help?"

From time to time I hear from some of you asking how you could help in the work in which we are engaged. This is a natural and godly desire; as it is the work of God's spirit making us channels of His resources. It is what Paul referred to as "*the fellowship of the gospel*" when he wrote to the Philippians (1:5), rejoicing that they had so faithfully partnered with him in sharing in the labors of the gospel.

For a long time I have thought that it may be most beneficial to you if I outlined some of the means by which you could join us in "*the fellowship of the gospel*."

First of all, I would like to thank each of you who already graciously give your support both prayerfully and financially. I am not sure where this work that God has given me would be if it were not for your ministry in this way with me. Without your fellowship this weekly periodical, the *Daily Email Goodies* and the hundreds of articles, booklets and books that we have in print would not even exist.

How We Make Our Living

Before I talk about ways that you can help, maybe it would be helpful for you to understand how we make a living. I work for a living – just like you. I do this by conviction, as I believe that Paul provided an example of "tent making" as he proclaimed the gospel.

Our family actually attempts to make our living by selling used books online. We sell all kinds: history books, cookbooks, sports books, hobby books, etc. We do so

as *ParlorBooks.com*. We currently have about 35,000 titles online. Most of our sales come through the utilization of major online marketplaces such as Amazon, ABE, Alibris, Half.com and Ebay.

We have basically made our living this way since leaving the ministry in 1995. It has always been a challenging and somewhat meager way to make a living, usually producing just enough to allow us to supply our needs, so that we may devote as much time as possible to what is really on my heart – the ministry of the Word.

We do not make a living through any of our ministry areas. The sale of Bible study literature through *StudyShelf.com* – books that I have written, the subscriptions to the *BSN*, etc. – are simply attempts to help cover their costs and sustain their existence. In fact, these efforts are mainly subsidized by the personal efforts and financial support of our family and a few others who give of themselves for this work.

To help keep overhead down, and to be the most efficient at what we do, in 2004 we moved to Windber, PA, to bring our family, business and ministry functions all "under one roof."

We purchased a former funeral home at a greatly reduced price. After all, who wants to buy an old mortuary, right? The main facility was originally built in 1895, and became a funeral home in 1932. When we first came to look at the property there were still caskets here, and the embalming room was still intact.

We live and work where some would cringe to work; but death is a natural part of life – and we now bring much life and laughter, where for decades there had been so much death and crying.

This facility that Father has provided affords us the room to live, work and house our books and offices, all in one location. We have our offices in the former funeral home office, and in some of the former "viewing areas." We have our books on 200 bookcases set up chiefly in the former chapel and main viewing room. We store our yet-to-be-processed used books in the former hearse garage bays. We make use of other unique features too, such as the casket lift, which more easily allowed us to move our nine 26' truck loads of books, and office and household belongings into their new home.



Come Visit Us

By the way, if you are ever in the area we would love to have you come and visit – we would enjoy your fellowship.

Schedule permitting you can even spend the night with us. There is nothing fancy here, but we do have the best "Dead and Breakfast" in town!

Ways You Can Help

Needless to say, being such a small, shoestring undertaking, we sincerely welcome your *fellowship in the gospel*.

• **Pray for me**, and those who labor with me, as Father would give you the heart to do so. This is no small matter! The adversary is opposed to the message that we share. If the *Daily Email Goodies* is a daily reminder to do so, or the BSN is a weekly reminder, I would be thankful.

Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you (II Thessalonians 3:1).

• **Give financially**. This is no small matter either! Every aspect of our ministry involves money – every day, every week. This is a self-paying ministry as we must support ourselves, our family and our work of ministry. We have no organization to foot the bills. Your "communication" (i.e., sharing, distribution) with me is much appreciated.

Now you Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but you only (Philippians 4:15).

If you value our work and teaching, you are invited to join us in supporting and advancing it. Even the smallest amount is helpful, either in paying for a ream of paper to print study literature, or freeing up even an hour of my time for study or writing.

Many might have a heart to give, but do not do so because they believe that their own gifts would seem meager. They might feel that what they are able to give seems so insignificant. One-time gifts are such a cause

of thanksgiving to the Father, but frankly very small regular gifts could be used here in an essential way, to make a big difference. We include a link on our website where you have the opportunity to give.

• **Sign up for my free *Daily Email Goodies***. You can do so at www.DailyEmailGoodies.com Do you know someone who might enjoy a particular *Goodie*? Why not forward it to them? Or encourage them to sign up for themselves?

• **Subscribe, and give a gift subscription to our *Bible Student's Notebook***. If you do not already subscribe to our weekly publication, do so today. This will be a way that you can receive a wealth of regular Bible study material and keep regularly updated on our work. We offer both print (less than \$1 per issue) and electronic (less than 20¢ per issue) versions.

Do you know someone who is hungry for truth? Who loves to study the Bible? Who is disillusioned by traditional Christianity? Who thinks outside the box? If so, why not give them a gift subscription to the BSN? It could be a gift that could change their life!

• **Order books**. Go to StudyShelf.com and place an order for great Bible study books. While there, also order copies to give to friends, family members and Bible teachers that you know. Many who learn the truth do so through literature that finds its way into their lives.

• **Online articles**. We are steadily building a wealth of online articles. Go to our web site regularly to take advantage of this rich resource. Familiarize yourself with the materials well enough to be able to recommend certain articles to others. A link can be found to our articles on the home page of StudyShelf.com, or you can also go directly to the articles webpage:

www.StudyShelf.com/Articles.htm

• **Internet opportunities**. If you participate in social networking on the internet, post links to our articles and books. This will expose others to the material that we have available as well as assist us in internet search engine rankings.

• **Send us books**. We are actively republishing old Bible study works. We currently have over 100 such works in book or booklet form.

Do you have old Bible study material that was a blessing to you? Why not join with us in making this material available to others. In fact, if it is old and rare, it is possible that it could actually be lost "forever." Why not consider scanning it, or sending it to us for someone else to scan?

- **Scanning.** Speaking of scanning, do you have a scanner? We already have a number of book projects that are waiting to be scanned. Would you be willing to scan a book for us to publish? Send for a list of titles from which to choose.

One large project that we have is a parallel Bible. This work will contain 6 rare, now public domain translations that deal more accurately with "eternity," "everlasting" and punishment passages. This is a monumental undertaking and we need a lot of scanners and proofreaders.

- **Financing a book set-up.** Could you finance the set-up of a book? We use on-demand printing for all of the books that we publish. This is a great technology. Without it we would not have this vast re-printing ministry.

We use two on-demand printing companies. With the initial company that we use to start all of our projects, there are no set-up fees; but as we have the finances, we move titles to a second printing company, which cuts our cost per book by about half. We have dozens of books waiting to be set-up at the less expensive printing company. It costs us about \$100 per title to do so.

- **Your skills.** Inform us of your skills and what you are willing and able to do. We are always in need of all kinds of skills around here. If we know what you are willing and able to do, you could probably be of help (e.g. photographers, graphic artists, web designers, marketers, proof readers, painters, plumbers, etc.).

- **Translation.** If you are proficient in another language you could translate some of our material for us. Via the internet, the "world" is "listening" – you could help us "speak" to them!

- **Equipment.** Our equipment is older, as we have always picked up our equipment secondhand. Maybe you have something that you aren't using that we could make good use of here, or know of someone who does.

We are always in need of computers, scanners, printers, copiers and other office equipment.

For our in-house printing projects (BSN, booklets, leaflets, etc.) we could use a color printer, paper cutter, and paper folder. (For example, we currently fold all of our work by hand).

One of our most frequent requests are audio and video recordings. For these teachings we would need audio recording and editing equipment, as well as video recording and editing equipment, with accessories.

- **Two daughters-in-law.** This is a *VERY* serious request. I need two daughters-in-law. I have four adult children, two are married. My two sons who faithfully work with me in our family business and labor side-by-side with me in our family ministry both need wives.

And the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone" (Genesis 2:18).

Many young women of our day are preoccupied with pursuing a career; thoughts of marriage, family-life and having children appear to be far from their minds.

Are you available? Or, do you know two young ladies who are looking to marry and have a family? If so, speak up! Again, this is a very serious matter.

My oldest, Clyde III (29), and my youngest Nathan (23), are *the* most wonderful men that I know. They love the Lord, they love the truth of His Word, they value family life, and are dedicated to a lifestyle that keeps the family together working in a family business. They are looking for young ladies who are ready to settle down and join them in our family business and ministry. I can hardly wait to have two more daughters ... and more grandchildren!

My love to each of you,



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Choosing to Do Hard Things

by – J.R. Miller (1840-1912)

Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which works in me mightily (Colossians 1:29).

There are too many people who try to shirk the hard things. They want to get along as easily as possible. They have ambition of a certain sort – but it is ambition to have the victory without the battle; to get the gold without digging for it. They would like to be learned and wise – but they do not care to toil in study, and “burn the midnight oil,” as they must do – if they would realize their desire.

One is usually thought to be particularly favored, who *misses difficult experiences* and the enduring of hardships. It is not so *easy* – but it is *better* – if people have disappointments, burdens and responsibilities. Thus, they will be taught to submit their wills to God’s.

Of course, not always do people get the *lessons* and the *character* they should get – out of hard things. Some grow bitter in disappointment, and lose the sweetness out of their lives when they have

to endure trial. But in all that is hard – there is the *possibility of blessing*. The goal of noble living is to *gather new grace – from all life’s struggles, cares and sorrows*.

Some people have a habit of *skipping the hard things*. *Difficult things* are put in our way not to *stop us* in our course, but to call out His *strength in us!* If we never had any but *easy things* to do, – things requiring no effort – we would never become strong!

We should not forget that no one ever did anything of great value in this world – without cost. A quaint old proverb says, “One cannot have an omelet – without breaking eggs!” If we would do anything really worthwhile, we must put into it thought, time, patience, selflessness, sleepless nights and exhausting toil.

1902

Why Bother Proclaiming the Gospel?

by – Joel Olson (1955-)

The objection is often raised that, if Father will eventually save all anyway, why bother proclaiming the Gospel? In answer, please consider these:

1. That Father was in Christ conciliating the whole world to Himself.
2. That believing is a gift, bestowed at Father’s discretion.
3. That Father will give this gift to every one who has ever lived at their appointed time.
4. That Father has ordained that through the foolishness of proclaiming, the Word does His work.

to belief does not preclude Him from opening the hearts and minds of some NOW.

Once the full magnitude and glory of this marvelous truth dawns on the mind and heart (the gift from Father) it becomes fairly impossible to REFRAIN from proclaiming it. Such is the overflowing joy of a heart so changed. Since Father and Christ Jesus our Head are the authors and cause of all of this, the full credit and glory go to Them (before Whom no flesh shall glory), and we are privileged to participate in the process!

Amarillo, TX

The fact that Father will EVENTUALLY bring all mankind

Truth Withheld

by – Joel Olson (1955-)

Can one be held accountable for the truth if it is purposely withheld? Will Father condemn those from whom He has withheld the truth?

Jesus said to him, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (John 14:6).

But though He had done so many miraculous signs before them, they did not believe into Him, so that the Word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he said, “Lord, who has believed our report? And the arm of the Lord, to whom was it revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1).

Because of this they could not believe, because Isaiah said again, “He has blinded their eye” and has hardened their heart, that they might not see with the eyes and understand with the heart, and be converted, and I should heal them (Isaiah 6:9-10; John 12:37-40).

What then? What Israel seeks, this it did not obtain, but the election obtained it, and the rest were hardened (Romans 11:7).

... But their thoughts were hardened, for until the present time the same veil remains on the reading of the Old Covenant, not being unveiled, that it is being done away in Christ (II Corinthians 3:14).

... In whom the god of this age has blinded the thoughts of the unbelieving, so that the

brightness of the gospel of the glory of Christ Who is the image of God, should not dawn on them (II Corinthians 4:4).

No one is able to come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up in the last day. (John 6:44).

If Father bestows the gift of believing on some now, must He not, if He is just, bestow the same gift on all eventually? Shall not the Judge of the earth do right?

For God shut up all into disobedience, that He may show mercy to all (Romans 11:32).

... Because it was granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer on His behalf ... (Philippians 1:29).

But as many as received Him, to them He gave authority to become children of God, to the ones believing into His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but were born of God (John 1:12-13).

For by grace you are saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves; it is the gift of God ... (Ephesians 2:8).

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself (John 12:32).

REAL (continued from page 2201)
about God’s humble work in you.

What we are talking about here is the real work of God in our lives – Everyday real. Painfully real. Routinely real. Monotonously real – but nonetheless the *REAL* work of God!

For the most part, in this life you will go overlooked,

unrecognized, unappreciated and unthanked. This is par for the carnal course, but **do not let this discourage you from your GREAT ministry.** One day all the things of this life will be brought into the light. So,

... Don’t be weary in well doing: for in due season you will reap, if you faint not (Galatians 6:9).

Eternal Death

by – Joel Olson (1955-)

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

Is death eternal in any sense?

If *death* really means *eternal life* in some really nasty place, or *eternal destruction* from the presence of God, and if Jesus paid (past tense really wouldn't work here) the penalty for sin (Hebrews 2:9), how is it that Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father (Acts 7:55-56)?

If *death* really means death (the cessation of life), and it means *forever dead*, how is it that Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father (Romans 8:34; 6:9)?

How can death be "*swallowed up in victory*" (I Corinthians 15:54), and "*be no more*" (Revelation 21:4), if a single created being remains in its grip?

If, on the other hand, death does mean the cessation of life (Ezekiel 18:20), and Jesus has paid the penalty *IN FULL* for all men (I John 2:2), abolishing death (II Timothy 1:10), and when the last of mankind bows the knee and confesses Jesus (Philippians 2:10-11) – which thing can only be done by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:3) – and receives salvation and immortality (Romans 10:10; I Corinthians 15:53-54) – which only Jesus possesses (I Timothy 6:16) – will not "*the last enemy*," death, truly be "*swallowed up in victory*" (I Corinthians 15:54) and "*be no more*" (Revelation 21:4)?

Is this not Father's will (I Timothy 2:4)? Shall He not accomplish all of His will (Isaiah 46:10)?

Amarillo, TX



Church Membership

Never be in any Body where you may be "turned out"; or have your name down where it may be scratched out. Be content with the membership which God has given you in the spiritual unity of the Body of Christ, from which no power in Earth or Hell can cut you off. – E.W. Bullinger

E. W. Bullinger, A Biography
Juanita S. Carey, page 120

Faithfulness

Popularity is not to be our aim; success is not to be our object; results are not to be our guide; we are called to be faithful in our testimony. – E.W. Bullinger

E. W. Bullinger, A Biography
Juanita S. Carey, page 26