



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume X
Issue 236

Walking

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

The life of the believer is likened to *walking*. Walking is simply taking one step at a time. Spiritual life and development does not take place instantly, overnight. Nor is it a complicated process of hoop-jumping and spiritual gymnastics. Rather it is a very gradual, step-by-step journey on which our Father is leading us.

Walking in Newness of Life

... We also should **walk in newness of life** (Romans 6:4).

We do not walk in the *oldness of death*; rather our daily walk is in the freshness and vitality of His divine life.

Walking in Faith

For we **walk by faith**, not by sight (II Corinthians 5:7).

We do not walk under the influence of the prevailing circumstances around us. Rather, our daily walk is in simple faith. Like Peter, we will begin to “sink” in our “walk” if we take our eyes off of the Lord and give our attention to the “wind boisterous” (Matthew 14).

We continue our walk with the Father just as simply as we began it.

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him (Colossians 2:6).

Walking in Light

For you were sometimes darkness, but now are you **light in the Lord: walk as children of Light** (Ephesians 5:8).

We do not grope about in the darkness. Rather, our steady walk is in the radiance of divine light. We ARE “light in the Lord” and our calling is to “walk as children of Light!”

Though we may live in the *darkland*, and all around us is night, the area directly around our feet is intensely bright, providing illumination abundantly enough for the taking of simple steps.

Your Word is a **lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path** (Psalm 119:105).

Walking in Love

And **walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor (Ephesians 5:2).

We do not walk in hatred, anger or hostility. Rather, our everyday walk is in the divine love of our Savior.

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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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."

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

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Strictly Personal

Spring Has Sprung!

Well, the color of spring is beginning to splash across nature's landscape. I see the daffodils and crocus outside the window as I write.

I love the four seasons. It is so wonderful to watch the splendid changes that take place from the God of nature's hand.

For someone whose favorite season is winter, this past one was truly amazing. To me, perhaps the greatest beauty of all creation is an abundant snowfall on the barren winter-landscape. (Maybe my colorblindness is a contributing factor to this preference.)

As some of you know, I tried to move to North Dakota a few years back. Instead, 5-½ years ago we moved from Virginia to Pennsylvania. Well, this past season North Dakota came to us!

We have always had a steady and abundant winter snowfall here in PA, which I have just loved. However, this past winter we had a record-setting snowfall; about 180" (15 ft). It was an absolute winter-wonderland!

My Latest Books

One of the main problems that I have with writing a book is never seeming to be "finished." Every time I re-read my manuscripts, I inevitably see something that I want to add or change. I recently read something encouraging from Norman Grubb (1895-1993), in this regard.

I don't know if every writer on the things of the Spirit has the same problem – no sooner have I completed one manuscript than I see this and this and this which could be put much more clearly, or whole areas of insights which should be added. I feel like the automobile dealers who *must* produce a new model each year! (*God Unlimited*)

Regardless, my latest 5 books are all now finally available to order:

The Church in Ruins:

Brief Thoughts on II Timothy (#3325); \$9.⁹⁵

The Outsiders:

God's Called-Out Ones – A Biblical Look at God's Ecclesia (#4125); \$9.⁹⁵

Suffering:

God's Forgotten Gift (#5150); \$9.⁹⁵

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God's Word for Common Man – The Story of God's Amazing Book (#4425); \$19.⁹⁵

Due Benevolence:

A Survey of Biblical Sexuality – It Might Not Be What You Think! (#3775); \$24.⁹⁵

Would You Like a Visit?

Would you like a visit from your editor? If I have a standing invitation to fellowship with you in your home, drop me a line by mail or e-mail. Schedule permitting, I would like to meet with saints in their homes as I travel around the country, perhaps even spending a night. This could be just a personal time with you, or you and your family, or it could be a time where you invited others to join us for some fellowship and study. Drop me an e-mail (clyde@StudyShelf.com) and let me know what's on your heart along these lines. Depending on where you live, if I am unable to make it this year, then perhaps we could make plans for another time.

Writings in Dutch

Thanks to the diligent efforts of our dear brother Wim in the Netherlands, some of our *Daily Email Goodies* are being translated into Dutch. He is also posting them on his Dutch website: www.hetbestenieuws.nl

I never would have dreamed of such a wonderful opportunity.

Here is a recent response that he has received. He was so kind to translate it into English for us.

I visit your website a couple of times each week and have, in the past years, read quite a lot of articles.

But now I would like to give you a VERY BIG compliment for the articles by Clyde Pilkington, Jr. Especially the last placed article, *Paul's Forgotten Message – Mars' Hill (Acts 17)*, touched my heart.

I have been thinking like this for years. When I saw that someone put it in black and white, tears came to my eyes because of emotion.

I thank God for the fact that He gave me, in a very early stage (I am 53 now), the love for other cultures and the gentiles.

Bravo for giving these words a place!

Do We Make Too Much of Paul?

by – Richard Jordan

Sometimes those who do not fully understand “the preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery” wonder whether or not we give undue prominence to the Apostle Paul. Isn’t Christ our pattern, and shouldn’t we walk in His footsteps? By emphasizing Paul and the special message committed to his trust, are we casting a shadow on the Lord Jesus Christ?

In considering these objections we should be careful to notice Paul’s words in I Timothy 1:13-16. Here he presents himself as a great sinner – “a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious,” yea, the “chief” of sinners – while presenting Christ as a great Savior:

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

A SINNER AND A SAVIOR

What a marvelous combination: a great sinner and a great Savior! It is with this in mind that the apostle goes on to say,

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.

When we think it through, it soon becomes apparent that the Lord Jesus Christ could not be the example and pattern. He did not need to be saved – indeed, His perfect, sinless life only shows up our imperfections.

The chief of sinners, saved by grace, however, makes a fitting pattern for us, for as we take our

place with him and trust in the Savior Who died for our sins; “... we have redemption through [Christ’s] blood” (Ephesians 1:7).

Paul is the only man in the Bible, apart from our Lord Himself, who says again and again, “Follow me.” This is not because he was anything in himself, but because Christ had given him the message of grace and had made him the pattern for this age of grace. This is not a question of personal excellence, but of divine revelation and God-given authority and position. Note his words carefully:

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles; I magnify mine office (Romans 11:13).

Paul, an apostle (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, Who raised Him from the dead (Galatians 1:1).

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, if ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery ... (Ephesians 3:1-3).

PAUL AND CHRIST

A key passage in properly understanding the relationship between our Lord’s earthly ministry and that later committed to Paul is Romans 15:8-12. It begins with this declaration:

Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers (:8).

The next few verses contain the words “and again ... and again ... and again,” referring to the prophetic promises that one day the Gentiles would “rejoice ... with His people” Israel, as they with

Christ as King “reign over the Gentiles.” The prophets had often predicted that the blessing of God would go to the Gentiles through the rise of redeemed Israel to Kingdom glory (e.g. Isaiah 60:1-3; Zechariah 8:13, 20-23). Hence Paul, here in Romans 15, quotes no less than four direct references to this glad day of millennial blessings; for this was the clear focus of our Lord’s earthly ministry.

We know, however, that “*His Own received Him not*” at His first appearing (John 1:11), declaring, “*We have no king but Caesar,*” and demanding His crucifixion.

After His resurrection the Lord commissioned His apostles to offer again repentance to Israel, and Peter thus proclaimed,

Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, “And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.” Unto you first God, having raised up His Son Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities (Acts 3:25-26).

Yet again they rejected Him. Thus Paul continues in his declaration to the Romans:

Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:15-16).

Here we have God sending salvation to the Gentiles – not in the manner predicted by the prophets, to be sure, but sending it nonetheless. Indeed, salvation now is going to the Gentiles through the fall of Israel:

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles,

for to provoke them to jealousy (Romans 11:11).

From His ascended position in heaven the Lord Jesus Christ poured out His grace to a rebellious world by saving the very leader of their rebellion and sending him forth as both the herald and the living demonstration of His grace. Hence Paul, now “*the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles,*” could proclaim,

I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12).

This was no afterthought on God’s part, no makeshift arrangement, for the Apostle adds that God has,

separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by His grace, to reveal His Son in me (:15-16).

Today Jesus Christ is revealing Himself to the world through the writings of the Apostle Paul. Paul was in Christ and Christ was in Paul. The Lord first revealed Himself to Paul, and then through Paul to the world.

Those who continue to pit “the words of Paul” against “the words of Christ,” should carefully consider the Word of God in I Timothy 6:3-4:

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words ...

It is hard to imagine how he could more emphatically set forth the truth that his words were in fact the words of Christ. He again insists upon this in his stern rebuke to the carnal Corinthians.

If I come again I will not spare, since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me (II Corinthians 13:2-3).

Thus our ascended, glorified Lord is now sending a message of love and grace to a world of sinners, through the chief of sinners, Paul, “*saved by grace*” – a message committed to him by special revelation (Galatians 11:11-12; Titus 1:3; I Corinthians 14:37).

PAUL AND THE TWELVE

The evidence is overwhelming that Paul was not one of the Twelve.

First, he never qualified for this position. Acts 1:20-22 clearly states that Judas’ successor must be one who had “*accompanied with [the Twelve] all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among [them], beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that He was taken up from [them]*” (c.f. Matthew 19:28; John 15:27). Thus Paul’s name never could have been put “on the ballot.”

Neither was Paul given the same commission as the Twelve. A comparison between Christ’s instructions that the Twelve “*go baptizing*” (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16) and Paul’s statement, “*Christ sent me not to baptize*” (I Corinthians 1:17) easily demonstrates the point. Also, the Twelve were sent forth to teach “*all things whatsoever I have commanded you*” (Matthew 28:20) – which clearly included the faithful observance of the Law (Matthew 5:19; 23:1-3), while Paul later proclaimed Christ as “*the end of the law*” and says, “*Ye are become dead to the law by the body of Christ . . . For ye are not under the law, but under grace*” (Romans 10:4; 7:4; 6:14). No, Paul is never to be considered as one of the Twelve Apostles.

As if the obvious contrasts above were not enough, notice the inspired reference to “*the Twelve*,” at a time when numerically there were only eleven: “*And that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve*” (I Corinthians 15:5).

This inspired reference to “*the Twelve*” between the resurrection and ascension of Christ is irrefutable evidence that Matthias is one of the twelve Apostles. This is further confirmed by the fact that when Matthias was added, they were “*all filled with the Holy Ghost*” (Acts 1:26; 2:4).

Further, Paul and the Twelve represented different programs. Not only is the number 12 associated particularly with Israel, but we are told that the Twelve Apostles were her official representatives, destined to “*sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*” (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30). Paul, on the other hand, was by birth both a Hebrew and a Roman (Acts 16:37; 22:28), and thus an appropriate representative of the “*one Body*” composed of reconciled Jews and Gentiles.

Again, Paul and the Twelve proclaimed different messages. The very heart of the message of the Twelve was the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom on earth, while in Paul’s message the kingdom program awaits a future day, having been interrupted. Today everything centers in God’s grace to a Christ-rejecting world, as He reconciles believing Jews and Gentiles to Himself in one Body, giving them a position in heavenly places with Him.

Aside from this – and much more could be said – is how those who insist on following Peter and the Twelve never come to grips with the following:

And when James, Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me [Paul], they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision (Galatians 2:9).

How could the record here in Galatians 2 be clearer? James, Peter and John, along with the whole Jerusalem church, recognize the further revelation given through Paul and take part in a public act of recognition and endorsement of the fact that God had now appointed Paul as the Apostle of the Gentiles.¹ If Peter’s present-day admirers would ask him, he (and the Twelve) would tell them, “Follow Paul: he is God’s spokesman for the present day.”

1. C.f. Peter’s own inspired explanation of the delay in the completion of the prophetic program in II Peter 3:3-16.

PAUL AND US

Just as our ascended Lord, so to speak, says, "Follow Paul, I have revealed Myself to you through him;" just as the Twelve say, "Follow Paul, he is God's appointed spokesman for the dispensation of grace;" so Paul himself exhorts us by divine inspiration,

Be ye followers of me, even as I am also of Christ (I Corinthians 11:1).

While we firmly believe and contend that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable" (II Timothy 3:16), we also recognize that we can obtain the profit God has placed for us in His Word only when we "rightly divide the Word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15). Frankly put, we need those divine instructions which are appropriate to the age in which we live. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount simply will not do, for who among us is sufficient to keep them?

The next time you hear the so-called "Lord's Prayer" recited, *think* for a moment: Are we to be praying, "Thy kingdom come?" Are we not going to be with Christ, rather than waiting for Him to come to earth to reign? Would God have us twist and misapply this important passage into a mindless and meaningless ritual?

Neither does the Pentecostal program provide an adequate basis upon which to operate today. Its legalism, baptismal salvation, signs and wonders, "all things common," Jerusalem first and apostolic powers to remit sins are only some of the things which produce confusion when attempted today.

No. It is not until we turn to the epistles of Paul that we find instructions appropriate to the age in which we live. It is Paul who has so much to say about salvation by grace through faith, about the spiritual life and walk of the believer and how to achieve a walk that will truly glorify God. It is Paul who tells us how to function as members of the body of Christ. Indeed, he is our apostle – God's spokesman – for the dispensation in which we live.

HEAR HIM

When Peter, on the Mount of Transfiguration, started talking simply because "he wist not what to say," God interrupted him, saying, "This is My beloved Son; hear ye Him" (Mark 9:7; Matthew 17:5). Yet now, from heaven's glory, our Lord Himself says, so to speak, "I have saved the chief of sinners by My grace, and have given him to you, My representative, a living example and pattern of My grace to you: *Hear ye him.*" Thus in hearing him, we are then giving heed to our risen, glorified Lord (John 13:20).

The Twelve echo in tune: "God has interrupted the prophesied program and has given a further revelation through Paul; we commend you to him – *hear ye him.*"

Paul himself adds:

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began, but hath in due times manifested His Word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior (Titus 1:2-3).

[Christ] *gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle ... a teacher of the Gentiles, in faith and verity* (I Timothy 2:6-7).

What a glorious message Christ has sent down from heaven – for us today – a message that makes Him everything! Rather than giving undue prominence to the Apostle Paul, as we recognize His unique position of God-given authority and its importance for us today, we are in fact being faithful to our God-given message. God has put a high premium on faithful obedience to His Word. By His grace may we refuse the wine of the religious system and its attempts to draw us away from the path of obedience to God's particular word to us.

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Volume 12, Number 3



Oh, my goodness, Clyde! I just read your article titled, “*Willingness to Walk Alone with God.*” I sobbed all the way through. I believe you have been there, Clyde. That is the only way you could have written that. I have felt there must be something wrong with me, even delusional, maybe, that I would believe all this when everyone else stood opposed to me. I have some support from my wife. I talk to a lot of people, and they kick the tires, so to speak, of what it is I am sharing with them, but as most others, they soon check out, and that’s it. I got a ton of comfort from your article. – **IN**

I can’t thank God enough ... that He is in control and is truly working His plan of bringing everyone to Him. I am still amazed at how little I thanked God for anything while I was in the churches. And now, I am even more amazed at how often I thank God for everything I see around me. – **HI**

The cross, the cross, the cross! Sweet peace. No more performance, no more nothing! Hello humanity, I’ve great news, HE IS ALL AND IN ALL. – **GA**

This is a great series [*Daily Email Goodies*]. I think that living without the camp enables one to be in the world but not of the world. I didn’t know how to “be” in the world when I was in the “local church.” I was afraid every time I was “around those heathens.” Since my exit from the “local church” and entrance into a walk with Christ, I’m daily learning just how to “be.” And just like you said, you use daily circumstances and subjects and God opens doors of utterance to speak the truth. A little here a little there ... and always daily a LOT of love ... charitable love ... forgiving love ... understanding love ... God’s love ... “... *I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some*” (I Corinthians 9:22). – **NC**

Your Email Goodies should be changed to Email Greaties. :) Keep them coming, I’ve learned so much and have been blessed so much. – **TX**

WALKING (continued from page 2229)

His love in us is a sweet-smelling sacrifice to the Father.

Walking Worthy

*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that you **walk worthy** of the vocation wherewith you are called* (Ephesians 4:1).

*That you might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God* (Colossians 1:10).

*That you would **walk worthy** of God, Who has called you unto His kingdom and glory* (I Thessalonians 2:12).

It is SO difficult to peel off the layers and layers of conditioning. But I’m finding that if and as we do, Light shines in real time, and the Truth is exposed to be far more brilliant and all-encompassing than we had ever supposed. – **OH**

Since I stopped relying on the traditions of men and started reading the Bible for myself, my faith has increased and God has shown me some amazing things I would never have seen. – **FL**

Because of you, I have been reading again the books on the salvation of all, which I do believe and have for several years, but was starting to have some doubts about. It is sad how we just believe for so long what we are taught [while] growing up, and feel hopeless in trying to please a God Who must be a tyrant, and being angry at Him for being a tyrant, and of course having to suppress that anger. Thanks for reaching out to others with the truth and bringing peace to many. – **PA**

Thank you so much! You are teaching me. – **IL**

I’ve just spent a wonderful couple of sleepless hours, reading articles from your website, and have ordered your book, *The Salvation of All* (with anticipation).

Although I was raised by parents who believed in the restitution of all things, and although this is a belief I have always held in a rather loose, “of course that’s how it is” sort of way, I’ve recently been forced to actually study why I believe as I do. My dad was a biblical scholar, and his shelves were lined with Andrew Jukes and F.W. Farrar, *et al*, but I found them dry as sawdust, growing up, and because I had never been forced to give reasons for believing in the salvation of all, I saw no need for a belief-system review.

But ... I have taken up a renewed interest in studying the Bible (generally) and God’s perfect plan for us all (particularly). I’ve been “under attack” from some ... fundamentalist friends (it was implied ... that those who believe as I do aren’t really even saved), and while some of it has made me uncomfortable, I am also energized to learn more! And I am excited ... to feel a surge of interest in this all-important GOOD NEWS of Christ.

I’m so grateful for all your email postings, and for the wonderful articles I’ve spent the last few hours reading (I especially love the one on Eternity, Ages, Forever, etc.). I would LOVE to see your library, but shall content myself with enjoying the book I’ve ordered! Thank-you for your scholarly support of this pivotal question. – **SC**

We do not walk in the shame and vanity of “*this present evil world.*” Rather, ours is a worthy walk in “*heavenly places.*” We “*walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their minds.*” Though we have “*walked according to the course of this world,*” we now “*high*”-step-it as sons of our heavenly Father in our heavenly vocation – one step in front of the other. Surely,

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delights in His way (Psalms 37:23).

Though we may not walk worthy of religion, nor of this world’s course, in our union with the Savior we do indeed walk worthy of the Lord!