



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XII  
Issue 283

# Speaking the Truth in Love

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*Speaking the truth in love* (Ephesians 4:15).

Paul makes something very clear in this verse: truth and love are NOT mutually exclusive. Some Christians *appear* loving at the expense of truth; others stand for the truth to the detriment of love. Yet, neither needs to be the case.



We will not be disappointed with love – it is truly a *sure thing* – since it never fails (I Corinthians 13:8).

We are therefore exhorted, by Paul,

*Be kindly affectionate to each other with brotherly love* (Romans 12:10).

The Greek word translated “*speaking the truth*” (KJV, ASV) is *alētheuō*. It is defined by Thayer as “to speak or tell the truth.” Other translations of Ephesians 4:15 are:

*Follow after love* (I Corinthians 14:1).

*By love serve each other* (Galatians 5:13).

*Holding the truth in love* (Darby).  
*Being truthful but in love* (Diaglot).  
*Lovingly hold to the truth* (Weymouth).

*The fruit of the Spirit is love* (Galatians 5:22).

*Forbearing one another in love* (Ephesians 4:2).

*Alētheuō* is translated in its only other occurrence as “*tell ... the truth*” (Galatians 4:16; KJV, Tyndale), “*speaking the truth*” (Darby, Weymouth).

*Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us ...* (Ephesians 5:2).

Truth and love do not preclude each other; but Paul does tell us,

*Abound in love* (I Thessalonians 3:12).

*Though I have ... all knowledge ... and have not love, I am nothing* (I Corinthians 13:2).

Divine love is the *real deal!* God says that it is lasting, edifying, perfecting and profitable. Without this single ingredient of the divine life, we are reduced to *nothing*. This is why Paul so aptly penned,

*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies* (I Corinthians 8:1).

*Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection* (Colossians 3:14; “*the tie of maturity*” – CLT).

God has made it very clear that love is the key to the truth; it is at the apex of divine value. Paul, the apostle, strongly makes the divine case for love as:

In everything that we are, and in everything that we do,  
(see **TRUTH**, last page)

*a more excellent way* (I Corinthians 12:31).  
*the greatest of these* (I Corinthians 13:13).  
*above all these things* (Colossians 3:14).  
*the bond of perfection* (Colossians 3:14).

Since love is *the* preeminent value with God, it should be the object of our lives, of our teaching, of our ministry.

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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 (I 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 (I 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; I 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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# Think of These Things

(I Timothy 4:15)

by – Frank Neil Pohorlak

*Think of These Things* was a Los Angeles newspaper column written by Frank Neil Pohorlak. Here is a short collection of some of the articles that have survived.

## TWIN EVILS

The Philosophers, schooled in logic and trained in the art of tracing a thought, however tenuous, through any argument, however abstruse, confess that they are not able to follow the simple declarations of Paul as he argued in the market on every day with those happening along (Acts 17:16-34). What an admission as to the utter inability of human wisdom to sound the depths of Divine stupidity (I Corinthians 1:25)!

Philosophy and religion are poor substitutes for revelation and salvation. Rationalism, as seen in man's philosophy, repudiates Christ as God's Fullness and regards God as incompetent to run the universe. Ritualism, as seen in man's religion, refuses Christ as the saint's fullness and regards God as insufficient to care for individuals.

These twin evils of rationalism and ritualism, or philosophy and religion, are among us today. They must be rooted out now as they were taken. Saints should find their all in Christ now as the Colossian saints found their all in Him then.

In Christ, saints are fully furnished – for Christ finishes that good work which He began in them. In Christ, God is fully furnished for every phase of His work to reconcile the universe (Philippians 1:6; Colossians 1:20).

Let us refuse anyone who seeks to rob us of our fullness in Him. Let us resist anything which repudiates Christ as God's Fullness (Colossians 2:8-9).

## A FALLACY WHICH FOOLS

“One picture is worth ten thousand words.” So say the coiners of slogans. This is a fallacy which fools. It leaves us to infer that Jesus, as a topflight cartoonist, would have portrayed more in one picture than He did with his 394 words used in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32); that Paul would have displayed more with one drawing than he told his listeners in 192 Greek words on Mars Hill (Acts 17:16-34).

The entire Hebrew and Greek writings, commonly called the Old and New Testaments, can be reduced in vocabulary to less than ten thousand words. Who wants to undertake to tell the whole Bible story in one picture which is supposed to be worth ten thousand words?

How would you draw a picture of creation? Of faith? Of love? Of crucifixion? Of Resurrection? Of judgment? Of new heavens and earth? Etc.

If the slogan coiners are correct, God should have sent His Christ into the world as a cartoonist instead of a Carpenter.

Let us rely on God Who uses the best means – words – to make Himself known to His creatures. The fact that God in His wisdom did not use pictures is proof that His words are better.

With David, let our heart stand in awe of His Word, for the Word of God is living and powerful (Psalms 119:161; Hebrews 4:12).

## TWO OPPOSING ORDERS OF TRUTH?

It is claimed that Science and the Bible contradict each other. This is true, since Science is incomplete in its knowledge and the Bible incorrect in its translation.

Yet this is not the same as saying, There is conflict between Nature and Scripture. Nature is the product of the hand of God and Scripture the result of the breath of God; between them no conflict is possible for each of them is out of God.

Herbert Spencer wrote, “It is incredible that there should be two orders of truth in absolute and everlasting opposition.” Yet to the thoughtful person there is a conflict between “two orders of truth,” which are in “absolute and everlasting opposition” to each other. We refer to “*everlasting punishment*” of Matthew 25:46 and the “*reconciliation of all things*” in Colossians 1:20.

If each is true, then two orders of truth are in absolute opposition. The problem may be due to one or more of the following factors: *Faulty text, faulty translation, or faulty explanation.*

When text, translation and explanation are true to the facts the opposition vanishes. In their verbal and contextual concordance, Matthew 25:46 and Colossians 1:20 are both true. We believe both; do you? Keep in mind that “Truth is truth no matter who denies it. Error is false no matter who believes it.”

## GOD’S GREAT SYMPHONY

God is the Composer. Christ Jesus is the Conductor. The Sacred Scriptures are the Score. The earth is the stage on which, in part, God’s symphony is being played. His creatures are the instrumentalists. Our daily lives and how we respond to His trials and His testings are the performance.

In this symphony each has a part, from the simplest of saints to the most scholarly of savants. Would there be a symphony if we all played violins? Or French horns? Or oboes? Of course not! If all played harps where would the cellos be? If all played violas where would the bassoons be?

All the members make one orchestra and each member is important, no matter how small his part, no matter what his size, shape, color, age, education, style and quality of clothes. Talent does not lie in looks, in the latest hair-do, or the up-to-the-minute fashions of this world system. Your value lies in knowing your part and your instrument, and in playing your assigned score under the direction of the Conductor, so that the combined efforts of all believers will make music to the glory of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## PATH OF MATURITY

We should not accept what the past has to offer without thinking it through; neither should we reject all that has been thought out by others in the past and start afresh on each subject by ourselves. In the present we may borrow from the past with a view to the future; but let us think it all through before we make it our own and pass it on. Let each of us develop an intense love of sifting evidence, and the ability to withstand being swept into thoughtless agreement with superior persons when they talk theology at us. Weigh everything!

The love of truth should not be the faintest of the passions

in us. We are accountable to God if we are spinelessly acquiescent followers of leaders who seek to imbue us with the utterly untenable idea that they alone are the sole and final court of appeals in matters of interpretation, and that those who differ should recant or resign. A Christian’s love for his theology or his favorite volumes should not exceed his love for God’s Word itself. Let us believe God! Only along this path does maturity lie.

## PAUL WAS PERSUADED

To be persuaded is to be “moved to mental compliance”; hence it is easy to see how by idiom and usage the word “confidence” is allowable in some cases.

When one is moved to compliance by mental processes he has *confidence* in what he has been taught, he is *persuaded* as to what he has learned and verified; hence remaining in these things and *yielding* to them, he enjoys peace and freedom from fear. The meaning of the word “*persuade*” is best educed by studying it in its Divine contexts, since these alone can define it accurately and scripturally.

Paul was *persuaded* that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

What are your *persuasions*?

Paul was *persuaded* that God was able to guard what He had committed to him for that day (II Timothy 1:12). This referred to his evangel, but do you believe that that good work which God began in you He will finish in the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6)? Are you *confident*, are you *persuaded* that He is able to guard you and yours in Christ?

Mental *compliance* comes with a thorough knowledge of God’s inspired Word and an unreserved heart belief in every single syllable He utters on all themes.

Hence, be persuaded by God’s persuasions! Believe God Himself and thank Him daily for His love in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

# Trusting Others to the Father

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*I commit you to God (Acts 20:32, Darby).*

*I entrust you to God (Acts 20:32, Moffatt).*

*I give you into the care of God (Acts 20:32, BBE).*

**D**o you carry the heavy weight of others on your shoulder? That somehow you are responsible for the direction and outcome of their lives?

Being “God” to someone is an especially hard job if you are not qualified. There is only One in the universe qualified for such a daunting task, and He already has all things squarely under His control. So, relax.

God is good at His job. Just like with any other work, you can't judge the finished product when seeing it in some stage of its development. This is true of you and me, of our loved ones and friends – all of God's creation!

When a dinner is being prepared the kitchen may look like a big mess, and the ingredients in their various stages of being mixed, stirred, blended, pounded, chopped, heated, etc. may not taste good or seem as if they will ever amount to anything. It is all just a matter of timing in the kitchen of the master chef. Just wait until the finished product is taken from the kitchen of preparation and placed on the table of display!

So it is with all of God's creation. He is still mixing the batter – with all of us. After all, it was to the idol worshipping pagans that Paul said,

*For in Him **WE** live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).*

Don't be depressed as you look around you. What you see is NOT the end of God's plan and purpose. What you see is NOT the finished product of God. God is actively at work in us in every circumstance,

of every life.

God who works “*all things after the counsel of His Own will*” finds no challenge with the circumstances and lives of our loved ones – not even the hard cases. Nothing poses an obstacle to Him – after all, He *is* the Almighty God.

God may have chosen you to be one of His instruments of ministry toward your loved ones; but never forget that you are the instrument and not the craftsman. Just as the spoon, the sifter and the whisk are all just tools in the hands of the cook, so it is with you. You are but the utensil in the hands of the Master Chef. Just as these instruments have no life and purpose of their own to create any dish, but must be selected and used by the cook – at his own will – so it is with you.

Do not be overwhelmed or discouraged, you are NOT the Workman, you are only the utensil in His hand. Whatever comes out of His use of you is completely up to Him.

Relax with those whom God has placed in your life. God is God; He is in charge. He loves them just as unconditionally as He loves you. He is molding them, as surely as he is you – day-by-day – into *all* that He intends for them to be, regardless of what we may think we currently see.

Do not be tempted to play “God” in the lives of others. Do not be disheartened with His pace, nor with His progress, for He is not yet finished; *but one day*, you and I and all of our loved ones will finally be complete. Trust others to the Father.



# Reader's Question Box #9

## "If ye continue in the faith"

*You, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister (Colossians 1:21-23; KJV).*

**Q:** In Colossians 1:23, the word "if" is tripping me up. Any thoughts?

**A:** The key to this is the Greek word that has been translated as "if" in this passage.

The *Concordant Literal New Testament* translates it accurately and clearly as "since surely."

*And you, being once estranged and enemies in comprehension, by wicked acts, yet now He reconciles by His body of flesh, through His death, to present you holy and flawless and unimpeachable in His sight, **since surely** you are persisting in the faith, grounded and settled and are not being removed from the expectation of the evangel which you hear which is being heralded in the entire creation which is under heaven of which I, Paul, became the dispenser (Colossians 1:23; Concordant Literal Translation).*

The rendering of the Greek word as "since" is in agreement with definitions provided by *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*, "since," and *Bullinger's Critical Lexicon*, "spoken of what is taken for granted." E.W. Bullinger also says in *His Companion Bible*, "Followed by the *Indicative Mood*, the hypothesis is assumed as an actual fact."

Here is what a few other Bible students have written:

In the original language of the New Testament this construction could have the meaning of "if" or "since." ... The best way to communicate Paul's meaning to us is to translate the word "since" instead of "if" – Theodore Epp, *The All-Sufficient Christ: Studies in Colossians*, Back to The Bible (1982), pages 57, 58

*It being a fact that ye continue in the faith.* – W.R. Nicholson, *Oneness with Christ: Expository Lectures on the Epistle to the Colossians* (1903), Bible Institute Colportage Association, pages 119, 120

The word here as it is used in many other places has

the idea of "since" – John Baker, *Amazing Grace*, Reconciled, March 2008

The word "if" is used in various ways in the New Testament. The force of the word is always determined by the mood of the verb with which it is used. Two Greek words are used of "if." One of them can be followed by a verb in the indicative mood. Here the word "if" ... is followed by a verb in the indicative mood. In other words, there is no doubt about it. We can supply the ellipsis: "If ye continue in the faith (which you will assuredly do.)" ... Paul uses the word "if" in this way on several notable occasions. In his great passage on the resurrection of Christ he says, "Now **if** Christ be preached that He rose from the dead" (I Corinthians 15:12). There is no doubt at all that Christ was being preached. The apostles were turning the Roman Empire upside down with that very message. It was at the very heart of apostolic preaching. – John Phillips, *Exploring Colossians*, Kregel (2002), page 81

Another example of the usage of the word "if" can be seen in Colossians 3:1.

*If you are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.*

The idea being presented is, "Since you have been raised with Christ, seek those things which are above."

"If ye continue" is clearer and more accurately stated as "**Since surely** you are." We know that the believer will continue, because the believer is God's "workmanship" (KJV) or the "achievement" (CLT) of God (Ephesians 2:10), and Paul declared confidence in His work.

*Being confident of this very thing, that He Who has begun a good work in you **will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6).*

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



I just want you to know your work matters. Big time. It changes me, by changing my understanding. And I live lighter every day because of it. – **Netherlands**

There was a kid's movie I saw with my grandchildren called *The Incredibles*. In a "perfect world" the movie would have to be about you! The gift Father has given you for us is INCREDIBLE! The way you can string verses together for a theme is remarkable. We are very familiar with all of them, but our thoughts don't group them like you can. How can anyone read this short essay [*Daily Email Goodies*] and not be convicted?! You cause Father to work harder to keep the uncalled blinded! – **LA**

I have been receiving the *Daily Email Goodies* for a few weeks now. God revealed His truth to me (the real truth of the salvation of all). I can't tell you how timely and wonderful and encouraging the *Goodies* are. – **Australia**

The world needs "big brothers" like you who truly love, admire, adore and reflect our true Dad. I grew up in a single parent (mom) home from the time I came home from the delivery room to a station wagon full of 7 other kids living in a park in Florida. I lived in poverty and the ignorance that it breeds until my early 20s. Mom worked all the time and was pretty much emotionally drained and it took a toll on our family. I was exposed to alcohol and drugs from grade school. Having 3 older sisters and 4 older brothers who lived in ignorance of true life should have left me emotionally and morally bankrupt. By God's grace, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego the heat and flames of that fiery hell didn't overtake me. But it was extremely lonely not having one of my elders look out for me – that was hell.

All that to say, I thank you for looking out, as a "big brother," at all costs, for your "little brothers and sisters" caught in the religious system and those yet in darkness.

You and your ministry truly frees the captives to see Father unhinderedly. I am very encouraged because the very thing I see in you I also see in myself. We get to take part in making the way clear for the "little ones" to come to Him! Thanks for telling the world who Dad really is ... Your "little" brother. – **FL**

It seems amazing to me that some of the very things you send in the *Daily Email Goodies* are things that I have been recently thinking about. These emails mean so much to me, don't be discouraged. – **IL**

You have blessed and encouraged me so much with your *Daily*

*Email Goodies*. It seems so often that when I need guidance and/or encouragement, your daily message meets the need. I am sure I am not the only one who has this experience. If I were to be limited to just one friend on Facebook, it would be you, no doubt. – **Facebook**

The *Daily Email Goodies* have been particularly enlightening and wonderful to me lately. – **WY**

Love your recent *Daily Email Goodies*. What great truth. Great writing, brother. – **PA**

God has given you a gift to spread His good word. – **NM**

Thanks for your voluminous flow during the past year. – **WI**

It's that time of year to reflect upon my growth over the past months. I want to take this moment to thank you for your ministry. It has been very helpful. When reading your *Daily Email Goodies* etc. ... I realize how close my heart and yours are ... Up until a few years ago I often wondered if I was an aberration – a fluke or something – because I had not come across many others who came to the same Godly realization as I had. To me, your theology is sound. I have never felt so wondrously free until I discovered the Truth. The Son set you and I free, and I thank Him for it.

There may be times in the future that you may doubt yourself and the ministry, and if this occurs just know that you are loved by many, and of course by Father. – **MD**

I have been blessed by reading your *Daily Email Goodies* and some of your books this year. I am receiving spiritual sustenance from you and you are receiving a small bit of physical sustenance from me. I am definitely making out in this deal :)

Your writings connect well with me and I am sharing them with my family ... I was raised in a Baptist Church and spent about 10 years pastoring a non-denominational church with a heavy emphasis on evangelism, and have been on a free spiritual journey with a small group of dear friends for the last 10 years. So, as you might guess, I can identify with your journey. – **OH**

Our Father has an awesome way with working through you brother Clyde. – **OR**

You have an anointing from the Lord to touch any of those who have "ears to hear what the Spirit is saying." You are truly "a scribe of the Lord" and a bond-slave of our Lord and not a servant to men's opinion nor influenced by what they may think or say against you. I praise God for you, Clyde and for your faithfulness in proclaiming the truth, which for the most part is not readily received by the majority of those who profess a knowledge of God and a love for Him. You, as well as your writings are a blessing and I want you to know that I almost daily check my e-mail in anticipation of finding a recent article from you. Be encouraged in the Lord. – **VA**

TRUTH (continued from front page)

we are simply the channels of His love that He has shed abroad in our hearts!

*The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts* (Romans 5:5).

We surely are to

*herald the Word. Stand by it, opportunely, inopportunely, expose, rebuke, entreat* (II Timothy 4:2; CLT).

Yet, we do so

*with all **patience** and teaching* (II Timothy 4:2; CLT),

for,

*the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle to all men* (II Timothy 2:24),

and

*be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness to all men* (Titus 3:2),

walking

*worthy of the vocation wherewith you are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering,*

*forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace* (Ephesians 4:1-3),

putting on

*as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man has a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you. And above all of these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness* (Colossians 3:12-14),

being

*not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good* (Romans 12:21).

So, even when we must confront and warn concerning the truth, we are able to follow Paul – our pattern and apostle, who,

*ceased not to warn every one night and day **with tears*** (Acts 20:31).

We must not just love, we must speak the truth. We must not just speak the truth, we must do so with the tender heart of love. Truth and love are NOT mutually exclusive: they are divine companions.

*Speaking the truth in love* (Ephesians 4:15).

## Things To Come

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