



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XV
Issue 355

Estrangement Through Adam; Reconciliation in Christ

by — R.B. Macnab (-1939)
Glasgow, Scotland

The one act of disobedience, of the one man Adam, was judged on the spot, and he was made subject to death (Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:17).

No other sin was ever treated in the same manner, not even Adam's other sins. Had God done so, none of humanity would have survived. After his sin Adam and Eve transmitted by generation to the whole race of humanity, a dying life, and through death the judgment flowed down to all of their posterity.

Not even the "gospel" nor the "grace of God" can revert this "doom!" This one act, of the one man, is the one sin from which there is no escape. God judged it, putting Adam and his race under the scepter of death.

If this is so, then all of the theologians have erred fundamentally in their theories of atonement and substitution. Even we who have been liberated from much error have imbibed man's theology in this respect, if we have taught that "the first death was natural, and only the second death judicial." Surely we might have seen, if sin is not natural, then death, which is the judgment on sin, cannot be natural.

The worst phase of this error is the teaching that Christ died for this sin of Adam and removed the guilt of it from the race, leaving all men "responsible" for their own sins.

Scripture teaches that Adam alone was guilty of that first "act" of sin, but in suffering its judgment, he not only died himself, but also transmitted death to all of

his posterity (Romans 5:12). Thus, God constituted all mankind "sinners" through Adam's disobedience (Romans 5:19). Scripture teaches that Christ died for "sins," "transgressions," "offenses" – not some, but all (Romans 5:16; II Corinthians 5:14; Hebrews 2:9).

We have failed to grasp fully that, first of all, Christ's propitiation was a display of God's righteousness in order that He might be justified. It seemed very unjust of God to constitute the whole of mankind sinners (Romans 3:23) through the disobedience of Adam. Men can no more help being sinners than they can help being born (John 3:6).

"God Who is rich in mercy" provided a "Propitiatory" in order that those who were sinners should be justified, and principally that God Who had constituted mankind sinners should justify Himself (Romans 3:26). "In Adam" God was estranging the world from Himself (Romans 1:28). "In Christ" God was conciliating the world to Himself (II Corinthians 5:19).

For years the saints have been reading in Ephesians and Colossians with the one, almost the only,

(see *ESTRANGEMENT*, last page)

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Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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This free weekly electronic 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 freedom from 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).

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Strictly Personal

OUT AND ABOUT

As this BSN is issued we are headed to Sacramento for our second Scripture conference of the year. This will be the third year traveling to California for this event.

Six weekends ago we also had the privilege of gathering in Colorado Springs for an absolutely wonderful weekend of fellowship and study. Sean Marting, Martin Zender and I taught.

I was thrilled to be accompanied on my trip by two of my sons, Nathan and Aaron. Nathan of course is my youngest son by birth, and Aaron is my son by acquisition (smile). I knew Aaron's parents before he was born, and he has lived with us for the past few years – a true son in the faith! These two men of faith, along with my son Clyde, are an endless source of encouragement to me.

A handful of saints came from some distant states to join in on the weekend hosted by the ecclesia that gathers in Monument. I can't say enough about these saints. The fellowship that they have there is very rare. The greatest tribute I can give them is to say that I miss them all already.

For me the highlights were gathering at the homes of Kurt & Rita Hufford, and Jerry & Illa Visser. You would have had to have been there to know how wonderful it was. Truly refreshing.

I will never forget all of Father's dear ones that I had the honor to meet. They will *always* be in my heart, and I trust that He will allow me to see them again one day.

SEASON OF FELLOWSHIP

These past couple of months have been a *season of fellowship*. Not only did we enjoy the time in Colorado immensely, we have had a couple of very special times here in Windber also with visiting saints.

Steve Hill, who recently moved from Ohio to Pennsylvania, drove a couple of hours for a sweet evening of fellowship. We enjoyed dinner together, and getting to know each other.

Because of their move to PA, Steve's family could not come with him on this initial visit, but we look forward to seeing them all on the next one.

Steve is a serious student of Scripture, and has a wonderful spirit. He is also an author of biblically-themed books, and is now working on this third, which we hope to make available in the near future.

We also had a visit from North Carolina paid to us by Tony Joiner (Charlotte) and Phillip Garrison (Mount Holly). They came for a couple days and we enjoyed tremendous fellowship with the two of them. It is my special privilege to know them, and count them as my dear brothers in the Lord. Their presence among us was a sheer joy.

(Not to mention that they come bearing gifts of North Carolina barbeque! Oh, my! Being from the south myself, Carolina style, pit-cooked, pulled-pork barbeque stands boldly as one of my very favorite meals. So, needless to say, we had an especially good time at the table.)

WIM'S NEW WEBSITE

A few months ago Richard Condon closed down his most valuable website for students of Scripture. Many felt a deep loss by this, as it contained an enormous amount of written material that had been such a big help to so many over the years.

I am glad to announce that our very dear brother, Wim Janse from the Netherlands has all of the material and more up and running.

<http://www.theheraldofgodsgrace.org/>

Wim co-labors with us in so many aspects of Father's work. He has translated many of our writings into Dutch and assists us with editing the *BSN*, not to mention his own many labors in the Dutch language. From time to time you also see articles from Wim in the pages of the *BSN*. In this issue of the *BSN* you will see the debut of two new occasional columns from him: *What's in a Name?* and *What's in a Number?* ►



In addition to his own Dutch website, Wim also has a rich storehouse of English audios from many trusted teachers.

<http://www.salvationofall-av.org/>

You will do yourself and others a great service by availing yourself of these rich resources. Wim is truly an international treasure!

THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE BODY OF CHRIST

When I wake up early in the mornings, it is not unusual for Wim to greet me. One such morning it reminded me of the old saying that “The sun never sets on the British Empire.” Such may no longer be true of Britain, but such is certainly true of Christ’s Body. His Body is actively living out divine life at every moment of every day across all of earth’s time zones. How comforting to know this.

Wim is an example of a handful of dear and precious brothers Father has scattered all over the world. It is my great joy to be able to know a few of them, and to have the pleasure of being encouraged by them, and hopefully being an encouragement to them in return.

God has always had His *called*. They have always been scatted across the globe. I think of how privileged I am today even to know they exist, and to be able to exchange words with them through the many avenues of modern technology. How extra lonely it must have been in the centuries between Paul’s day and ours, without such awareness and instant interaction.

UPCOMING GATHERING

A meeting is being planned for fun, fellowship and study in Seneca Falls, NY. The dates have been set for the weekend of September 28-30 at Cayuga State Park. It will be held at a rustic pavilion with a big open fireplace, small kitchen, and a balcony that overlooks Cayuga Lake. It is a great place to fellowship, sunset-watch, hike, relax, etc. Lenny Pappano and Len Paganelli are our hosts for the event. Mark your calendars and we’ll let you know more details as they are made available.



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What's in a Name?

"CANAAN"

by — Wim Janse

WILLIAM Shakespeare had Juliet say in *Romeo and Juliet*:

What's in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet.



ably because God used "adama," meaning red soil, to create him.

When we look up to heaven, we see, on a clear day with very dry air, a dark blue sky. Here we have, I think, the solution of why God chose this little piece of land and not another. God wants to meet His creatures and He has chosen Canaan to be His base to do that.

Yes, what's in a name?

Have you ever wondered why our Heavenly Father picked Canaan for His Own land? He could have chosen any other place on Earth, but He didn't. He chose Canaan. Well, it may have something to do what Juliet said: "What's in a name?"

God picked Canaan, and the name Canaan means, according to my Biblical Names book: *purple*, or: *land of purple*. The making and selling of a purple dye was one of the professions in that little land on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean.

As you know, the color purple is a mixture of the basic colors red and blue. When God had created the first man, He called him "Adam" – "red one" – prob-

Canaan, land of purple, is where God placed His chosen people and where He ordered them to build His temple. In that temple, in the land of purple, red and blue, man and heaven, would meet.

The summit of the meeting of red and blue, man and heaven, was to take place when God's Spirit came down and generated little Jesus in Mary's womb. Here red and blue, man and heaven, literally mixed. The land of purple had done what it had to do: God met with mankind in the most intimate way!

What's in a name? A lot! ■

What's in a Number?

"153"

by — Wim Janse

I may have come across a possible explanation for the use of 153 (fishes) in John 21:11.

153 is 12.36931687685298^2 (squared) or, in another way, 12.36931687685298 is the root of 153.

12.36931687685298^2 is the **exact** number of times the moon rotates around its axis while the Earth makes one trip round the sun!¹ Or, 153 is the number of moons in 12 earth years.

153 is therefore $12.36931687685298 \times 12.36931687685298$.

Since the Jewish calendar was (and is) dominated by the moon, does this point to the 12 tribes of Israel in the Millennium and to the completeness of the restoration of Israel at the beginning of the Millennium, and the completeness of Israeli world-wide rule during the Millennium? Does this point to the disciples drawing in ALL Israel, all from all tribes?

1. <http://www.secretsinplainsight.com/2011/08/13/666/>

Just a suggestion, no dogma. ■

An Illustration from a Rubik's Cube

- The solver solves it intentionally. God's intention has always been to restore all of His creation.
- The solver must first scramble it in order to solve it; solving is impossible without scrambling. Restoration is impossible without brokenness, salvation is impossible without sin.
- When it's scrambled, it's not an accident. God is the one responsible for introducing sin into creation; it didn't take Him by surprise.
- Since the solver knows how to solve it, then at any given stage, regardless of how things look, the solver is in complete control. Regardless how the circumstances of life look at any given time, we can be 100% confident that God is completely in control and is directing every aspect of all of life.
- *Each piece* has a specific position and orientation. God determined the times and places for everyone. *Everyone* has a specific place determined by God.
- It's impossible to have only one piece out of place; this means that no piece will be forgotten. Even when 99 are saved but 1 is not, God will leave the 99 to save the 1. There is simply no way that God will allow even one of His creation to be forgotten, lost or banished, in the end.
- The solver must always be keeping his hand on the puzzle; he can't turn and twist the puzzle without being intimately involved with it. God is the potter and we are the clay. The potter must always keep his hands on the clay in order to form the piece of pottery. Similarly, God always has His hands on each of our lives and is forming each of us into exactly what He wants, when He wants.
- Even at the end of the solve, it often happens that just before it's solved, lots of pieces need to move around; pieces may at that time feel that something's going wrong, but everything is still under control. Even when world events seem to be spiraling out of control, God is still completely in control. He knows exactly what He's doing.
- Once solved, no piece will be able to say "I'm in the wrong place!" or "I'm twisted around!" When God is "*All in all*," every part of creation will marvel at God's wisdom and grace in directing his or her life to perfection.
- Once solved, **every piece** will be able to look around and see that not only is it in the right position, but so is every other piece. When God is "*All in all*," no one will have any regrets. Everyone will see that everything that happened, happened for the fulfillment of God's perfect plans and purposes.
- Once solved, all of the pieces will realize that the solver had his hand on the puzzle the whole time and had everything completely under control. When God is "*All in all*," the whole of creation will say with Paul:

O, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgments, and untraceable His ways! For, who knew the mind of the Lord? or, who became His adviser? or, who gives to Him first, and it will be repaid Him? Seeing that out of Him and through Him and for Him is all: to Him be the glory for the eons! Amen! (Romans 11:33-36).

(Written and submitted by a reader).



I must tell you how very much I appreciate your study regarding the varied freedoms we have in Christ. It is a continuous amazement to me how productive you are in the wonderful studies and books you have made available to this generation. Long after we are gone from the scene of human activity the evidence of your devout scholarship will guide men and women toward the truth of Paul's evangel. – **OH**

Your book *God's Holy Nation* is an awesome read. – **WA**

I treasure all your books in my library and I read all the *Daily Email Goodies* and keep them. I also read and keep all of the *Bible Student Notebooks* and I record all your short audio casts and listen to them on my iPod. I love what you do. You are a source of light to me in a world of false teaching. God bless you and yours. – **TN**

Maybe you don't have time to stop and think about just how profound the wisdom that you display with your ministry really is. The words in your audios speak to many levels of spiritual maturity and are full of wisdom that can only come from Father Himself. How blessed you are to be a blessing to us. I have a deep and abiding love for you and your calling. – **LA**

It was such a joy to have the opportunity to meet you in person a few weeks ago and to fellowship and laugh together. It was a very special time for all of us. Thank you for your teaching, sincerity and openness with us ... Even though all of us here are many miles apart from you and your family, I am thankful we are close in Christ, heart and spirit. – **CO**

I just finished reading *Bible Students Notebook: The Truth About Sodom* by A.P. Adams. Boy, what an eye-opener. I have to completely change my viewpoint about Sodom and a lot of other silly religious viewpoints that I have held even though I have been a grace believer for some time. I am learning so much from you and the others that proclaim the reconciliation of all. I am a slow study and have had to change my viewpoints many times over the years, which I don't mind, for I am always having, it seems, to start over. I have read some of your literature plus many others. Thank you and God bless you. By the way, I was introduced to you through Richard Jordan, while you were at his conference. I don't know His position on this teaching but I am so glad God allowed

me to meet you and others. Continue in the work of the Lord and God bless you all. – **IL**

While reading the *BSN* article *The Truth About Sodom* I had a little "moment" with Father. See, I've always kind of "rolled my eyes" when it came to the restoration (*i.e.*, reconciliation) of Sodom and Gomorrah. It always seemed like "clutching at straws" as the saying goes.

This attitude started a few years back when I was first introduced to the idea. It was used as a proof text for universal reconciliation and I felt it to be a very, very *weak* grasp at supporting the doctrine. In fact, it left me a little leery at the time (of the whole teaching). It seemed like "a fly in the ointment." I could not understand why such "men of renown" (as Knoch) would resort to such a weak defense. I mean, if this is the best you got it just wasn't good enough! (Understand, at *that* time I was just beginning to "see.")

Nothing changed much concerning Sodom (in my heart) until today. Dad took the blinders off. As I was reading the *BSN* article "I" started thinking about Sodom being an "example" (II Peter 2:6), and then Jerusalem married to Father, and her wickedness, and restoration – and then Jeremiah 18:4 "**marred in the hand of the Potter ... so He made it again.**"

"*Made it again*" – the restoration of Sodom – absolute sovereignty – *marred* by His hand – "*All things are of God*" – universal reconciliation.

So I looked up the word "*marred*" in Jeremiah 18:4. It is Strong's #H7843, *shachath*. You might be surprised to know that it is translated as "*corrupt*" (KJV) in Genesis 6:11-12 – "*the earth also was corrupt before God,*" and of course, He destroyed the earth and "*made it again.*"

Also, in Genesis 13:10 (concerning Lot) it reads "... *before the Lord destroyed* (Hebrew: *shachath*) *Sodom and Gomorrah ...*"

Read them as:

"*the earth also was [marred] before God*"

"*before the Lord [marred] Sodom and Gomorrah*"

He marred it (the earth, Sodom, me) so that **He** could make it again into **His** likeness, **His** image, so that in the end **He** will be "*All in all.*"

Using concordant language, Sodom becomes one of the strongest examples available of universal reconciliation (Romans 11:36)! – **SD**



ESTRANGEMENT (continued from front page)

thought of the “one body,” failing to see the other wonderful truths concerning the temple, God’s habitation, the secret economy, the universal headship of the Christ, and especially the important truth of the two humanities.

Adam is the head of the old humanity. When the “word” became flesh, Christ became the last Adam, the second Man; but in resurrection He became a “vivifying Spirit,” in contrast to a “living soul” (I Corinthians 15:45). As such He is the Head of a new race, “a new creation,” “a new humanity” (II Corinthians 5:16-17; Ephesians 2:15; 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10).

The cross stands between the two humanities (Galatians 2:20; 6:14-15). The old humanity was crucified in the last Adam. That was the end of “the flesh of sin” (Romans 8:3)¹ virtually, judicially. Those now in Christ are a “new creation,” a “new humanity” (II Corinthians 5:17). All mankind will eventually be “in Christ” (Ephesians 1:10).

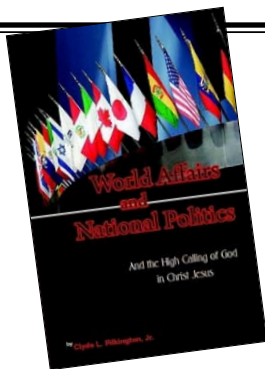
1. We are told that mankind has a “sinful nature.” It is true that the word “sinful” occurs five times in the common version of the “New Testament,” but it has no equivalent in the original. Four times it is used for “sinner” (Mark 8:38; Luke 5:8; 24:7; Romans 7:13). Once it stands for “sin” (Romans 8:3). The American Revisers have corrected this mistranslation in their margin. It should read, “the flesh of sin,” or “sin’s flesh,” not “sinful flesh.” So we never read of a “sinful nature.” Why not? Is it an oversight in the word of God or an imposition on it? Away with the unscriptural words! *The Problem of Evil and The Judgments of God*, Chapter 8: Sin in Act and in Fact by A.E. Knoch (originally from the *Unsearchable Riches Magazine*, Volume 17, 1926).

When Christ died He bore the sin of the race on Himself (II Corinthians 5:14). He died at the hand of God for sin in its totality (II Corinthians 5:21). He died on behalf of sinners; His death was for their sakes (Romans 5:6). They were not responsible for being “sinners,” though they were nevertheless accountable to God as His creatures (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:6, 12, 16). Christ in His death accounted for their sins and offenses, but all, believers and unbelievers, shall give an account of their “acts,” deeds or works, apart from the question of “sins,” either at the “bema” or the “great white throne,” in order to procure a righteous judgment, before God, Who will right every wrong.

The Father has committed all judgment to the Son (John 5:22), Who is also “the Savior of the world” (I John 4:14). May we never lose sight of the “Saviorhood” of Christ, when dealing with the justice of His judgments!

O, the depth of the riches and of the wisdom, and of the knowledge of God! How inscrutable are His judgments, and untraceable His ways, seeing that all is out of Him, and through Him, and for Him: to Him be glory for the eons! Amen! (Romans 11:33-36)

Unsearchable Riches Magazine, Volume 27, 1937



World Affairs and National Politics

And the High Calling of God in Christ Jesus

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

When did nationalism begin? What is God’s purpose for nationalism? Is the United States a Christian nation? Does any government have *Favored Nation Status* with God today? Should believers support Israel? What did Paul have to say about our citizenship? What is our role in relation to nations? Is our job to rid the world of evil? What should the believer’s attitude be toward earthly authority? Should all obedience to earthly magistrates be absolute? Are believers to pay their taxes? Where does voting and jury duty fit in? Why was the apostle Paul executed?

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