



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XV  
Issue 366

# Here Is Something New for You from God's Word

by — Robert C. Brock

Everybody likes to receive something new. The greatest book in the world, the Bible, deals with a number of “new” things — things that God considers important enough to include in His book.

For example, we read of a “new heaven” and a “new earth” in the last book of the Bible.

*I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea (Revelation 21:1).*

These are still future, being a long way off.

In the past, as described in the Old Testament, God said He would make a covenant with the Nation of Israel that is called a “new” covenant.

*“Behold, the days come,” saith the Lord, “that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31).*

This is still future also, since it is related to the Second Coming of the Messiah of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We may ask, “What does the Bible say about the present time period?” Well, the strongest emphasis on the “new” things of God is what God has planned for the day in which we live. These are found in the writings of the Apostle Paul. This is where we come in, for these “new” things involve us.

Paul states the basis for these “new” things —

*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new; and all things are of God (II Corinthians 5:17-18, KJV).*

However, the *King James Version* leaves out some important “articles” that change the whole complexion of this passage when translated into English.

*So then, since anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: **the<sup>1</sup> old things** have passed away; behold, **the<sup>2</sup> all things** are from God.*

With the translation of the article “*the*,” we see that there are specific “old things,” and there are specific “all things” which have become new.

What Paul taught here in II Corinthians was that “*the old things*” refers to Judaism, the religion of Israel, and that it has passed away. The “*all things*” which have become new and “*are from God*” are the new revelations that Paul received from the risen Christ Who saved him. In other words, there is a contrast here between the teachings of Israel which have passed away, and the new teachings of Paul which have come from God.

(see *NEW*, page 3291)

1. the old things (*Bible in Basic English*)  
the old things (*Darby*)  
the old things (*Green*)  
the old things (*Young*)  
the old things (*Rotherham*)  
the things old (*Diaglott*)  
the primitive (*Concordant*)  
the old state of things (*Weymouth*)
2. the all things (*Young*)  
the all things (*Diaglott*)  
the new has come (*Moffatt*)

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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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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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*NEW (continued from front page)*

All of those who call themselves “Christians” should be concerned about *the new revelations* that were given to the Apostle of the Gentiles, Paul (Galatians 1:11-12). These new revelations contain the knowledge of what God is doing today, and why He is doing what He is doing. God’s will for today is set forth in Paul’s thirteen letters to the Church, the Body of Christ. These letters are full of new truth.

As we identify some of *THE NEW THINGS* and examine their content, I would ask you to consider seriously their importance in the program of God that relates to your life during this “*the dispensation<sup>3</sup> of the grace of God*” (Ephesians 3:2).

### A NEW GOSPEL

The “*good news*” or “*gospel*” that the risen Christ revealed for these days is called “*the gospel of the grace of God.*” It was committed to the Apostle Paul, as Acts 20:24 states,

*I make of no account nor do I hold my soul precious to myself, in order to complete my race with joy, and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus, to earnestly testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

The Apostle Paul told the Ephesian saints that he had received from the Lord Jesus the ministry of the gospel of the grace of God. He did not learn of it from the Twelve Apostles or from anyone else, but *only* from the risen Christ.

This would make *this* gospel message a *new Gospel* from Christ Jesus, because it was not known before it was given to Paul. Paul is the *only* one who received it from the Lord Jesus. He, in turn, made it known to the whole world by his preaching and the writing of his thirteen letters.

*This* gospel is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. This is stated very clearly in I Corinthians 15:1-4.

*I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which even you received, in which even you have stood. By which also you are being saved since you are holding fast what word I preached to you, except in case you believed without purpose. For I delivered to you among [the] first things which also I received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He has been raised the third day according to the Scriptures.*

3. or, “administration” ([Concordant](#), Darby, [Diaglott](#), Holman, [Rotherham](#))

His death and resurrection are necessary parts of *this* gospel. This was not true with the “*old*” gospel, “*the gospel of the kingdom*” (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14). Even on the *Day of Pentecost*, the Apostle Peter accused the Nation of Israel of **killing (murdering)** their Messiah (Acts 2:23; 3:14-15). Later Stephen preached the very same message and was killed for it (Acts 7:51-52).

### A NEW CREATION

When a person believes “*the gospel of the grace of God,*” God makes that person a new creation in Christ. This important truth is found in our main text, II Corinthians 5:17.

*So then, since anyone [is] in Christ, [he is] a new creation.*

This truth is also found in Galatians 6:15.

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision is of any force nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.*

Here is a creative act of God: believers becoming a new race of mankind. Just as Adam and Eve were created by God, so we become. We are given a new standing before God, being made God’s righteousness in Christ (II Corinthians 5:21).

### A NEW DISPENSATION

Seeing that you have heard of *the dispensation of the grace of God* having been given to me for you (Ephesians 3:2).

A *dispensation of grace* was given to the Apostle Paul, not to Peter. Peter knew absolutely nothing about *this dispensation* when he preached on the Day of Pentecost. God was not working according to *this* dispensation on the Day of Pentecost. Peter *knew* what God was doing back then, and God *knew* what Peter was doing back then. There was 100% agreement between them in adhering to God’s will and purpose in relation to the Nation of Israel.

There is yet another name for this *dispensation of grace*. It is found in Ephesians 3:9.

*To illuminate all [as to] what [is] the dispensation of the mystery,<sup>4</sup> the one having been kept secret from the ages in God, the One having created the all things by Jesus Christ.*

4. *the administration of the mystery* (Holman)  
*the administration of the mystery* (Darby)  
*the administration of the secret* ([Diaglott](#))  
*the administration of the secret* ([Concordant](#))  
*the administration of the sacred secret* ([Rotherham](#))

The word “mystery” is used because the new revelations given to our Apostle are called “the revelation of the mystery” (Romans 16:25). This is how the Apostle Paul preached the Lord Jesus Christ. The Mystery is God’s current priority, and every believer should know all about it, receiving it as God’s truth for today.

### A NEW APOSTLE

According to God’s program for Israel, there were *Twelve Apostles* to head up the *Twelve Tribes of Israel*.

*Jesus said unto them, “Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).*

This was *not* fulfilled during our Lord’s earthly ministry, but it will be fulfilled in the Millennium. When the Nation of Israel rejected the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51), it began to be set aside by the Lord. Shortly after, God saved His worst enemy, and this man, Saul (Paul), became the first Apostle of a *new order* of Apostles of the risen Christ Jesus.<sup>5</sup>

5. These “apostles” were *not* the Twelve Apostles, chosen by our Lord before His death and resurrection. They are Paul and the eight men who were called by the risen Christ after His ascension into glory (Ephesians 4:11). The names of the twelve are

His new plans for the Gentiles called for a spokesman,

listed in Matthew 10:2-4. This includes Judas, whose place was later filled by Matthias (Acts 1:26).

The ministry of these apostles was to “*the lost sheep of the house of Israel,*” and concerned the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 10:1-8). The names of the apostles mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 are Paul and Barnabas, who were first called Apostles in Acts 14:4,14, Andronicus and Junia, who are referred to in Romans 16:7 as “*of note among the apostles.*” In I Thessalonians 1:1 Paul associates Silvanus and Timothy with himself, and tells us in 2:1-2 that they were bold to speak “*the gospel of God with much contention.*”

Epaphroditus is mentioned by Paul in Philippians 2:25 as his “*brother, and companion in labor, and fellow-soldier.*” Sosthenes and Apollos are certainly included with Paul in I Corinthians 4:9, where he said, “*I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it was appointed unto death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.*” Compare I Corinthians 1:1 and 4:6. – Ike T. Sidebottom (1899-1970), *The Fellowship of the Mystery: A Study of the Book of Ephesians (Bible Student’s Notebook #359, 360, 361).*

Besides the Twelve there were others appointed by the Lord after His Ascension (Ephesians 4:11; cf. I Corinthians 12:28). Such were Paul and Barnabas, first called so in Acts 14:4, 14; Andronicus and Junia (Romans 16:7). Paul nineteen times calls himself an apostle, and argues his claim in I Corinthians 9 and II Corinthians 12. See also I Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6, where Paul associates Silvanus and Timothy with himself. Twice the word *apostolos* (besides John 13:16 referred to above) is translated “messenger”, in II Corinthians 8:23, Philippians 2:25. See notes there. – [E.W. Bullinger](#), *Companion Bible Appendix 189.*



## The Deity of God

by – John Henry Essex (1907-1991)  
Nottingham, England

Creation cannot help itself that all of its achievements are futile because of the slavery of corruption, but we take immense comfort from the fact that, in spite of all of its present “groaning and travailing,” it was subjected to vanity in expectation of the eventual realization of that glorious freedom which is now already being enjoyed by the children of God.

It is in the prison epistle of Paul to the Ephesians that we find the most absolute expression of the Deity of God in relation to the points we have been considering. Here we find the phrase which puts all other Scriptures into their perspective:

*According to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (1:11).*

God is the captain of the ship of the universe; all of His creatures are its passengers. He is guiding the vessel across the ocean of time from the port that is called “*All in God*” to the haven that is termed “*God in all.*”

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and Paul was chosen for this work (Acts 9:15). He is as important for today as Moses was in the Old Testament. Both men, Moses and Paul, were given *new* revelations from God for the respective times in which they lived. Just as the Nation of Israel was required by God to follow the teachings of Moses, so God has required us to follow the teachings of the Apostle Paul.<sup>6</sup> Any departure from this Divine order is to be considered contradictory to the ministry of the risen Christ. Those who refuse to follow Pauline teachings are to be seen as enemies of the cross of Christ (Philippians 3:18).

### A NEW RULE OF INTERPRETATION

This *new* rule is found in II Timothy 2:15.

*Be diligent to present yourself accepted by God, a workman having no cause for shame, rightly dividing the Word of truth.*

This *new* rule is necessary because of the *new* body of truth given to the Apostle Paul. Before Paul, all Scripture was in accordance with the Abrahamic Covenant and God's Kingdom program for Israel. This extended through the first ten chapters of Acts, and then God gradually phased out the Kingdom program of Israel during the rest of the Acts period.

Most of Christendom rejects this *new* rule of interpretation, and therefore Christians are robbed of the truth found in the rest of the Bible.

The Greek word for "*rightly divide*" also means "to cut straight."<sup>7</sup> This verse is in the mood of command in the Greek. Those who refuse to obey II Timothy 2:15 are rejecting what their risen Lord has told them to do.

Failure to "*rightly divide*" the Word of Truth results in many contradictions. Failure to use this God-given rule causes many believers to be tossed back and forth with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14). Scholars contrive all kinds of explanations in order to answer biblical "problems" – problems that do not exist when the Word is rightly divided.

### A NEW CHURCH

Believers in *the gospel of the grace of God* become mem-

6. Paul says "Follow Me": I Corinthians 4:15-17; 11:1; Philippians 3:17; II Timothy 3:10-14. Note carefully, these are not merely Paul's words, but God's inspired Word directed to us through Paul (I Corinthians 14:37). – A.A. Sandoz (1888-1974) [Why Paul? Unveiling Practical Truth Veiled by Tradition](#)
7. *correctly cutting the word of truth (Concordant) cutting in a straight line the word of truth (Darby) cutting straight the word of the truth (Diaglott)*

bers of a new "church" that is called "*the Body of Christ.*"

*Now you are [the] **Body of Christ**, and members in part* (I Corinthians 12:27).

*With a view to the equipping of the saints for service, for [the] work of [the] ministry, for building up the **Body of Christ*** (Ephesians 4:12).

This "*Body*" is a "spiritual" Body – a living organism. It does not refer to our Lord's earthly body or to His resurrection body: it is a Body made up of believers.

This Body is called a "church" (*ecclesia*) in Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:24. The risen Christ is its Head. He is the One Who directs it according to the *new* revelations that created it.

This *new ecclesia* is found only during this *dispensation of grace*. It was not in existence before Paul, nor will it be on earth after the appearing of Christ.

### A NEW HOPE

This *dispensation of grace* will end when the Body is caught away by its Head from this earth. This *new* hope is called "*the blessed hope*" in Titus 2:13.

*Expecting the blessed hope and glorious manifestation of the glory of the great God, even our Saviour Christ Jesus.*

This blessed hope could take place at any time. It is not based on Old Testament prophecy. When the *Body of Christ* is completed, then the Lord will appear for us in the air. This *dispensation of grace* will be finished.

### A NEW BAPTISM

The seven unities of the Body of Christ as set forth in Ephesians 4:4-6 are absolutely necessary for the right understanding of "*the revelation of the mystery.*"

*There is one Body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one Hope of your calling; one Lord, one Faith, **one baptism**, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

It is important that we understand the phrase "*one baptism.*" It is also important that we see that there is only **one** baptism, and not two for today. Is water or Spirit baptism meant here? Abundant evidence clearly shows us that the baptism by God's Spirit is the one that is meant in Ephesians 4:5. This is a new baptism where believers are placed INTO the Body of Christ by God's Spirit.

(see *NEW*, page 3295)



## Strictly Personal

### A BUSY SUMMER

Some time back I told you I hoped I would be able to share with you on a more personal level more frequently in the BSN; however, this has been a very busy summer. I traveled some 16,000 miles in the past four months, speaking at five conferences (CO, CA, TN, SD & NY) and then attending a family reunion in NC.

It all began with a journey to Colorado Springs in June, of which I briefly shared with you in issue #355.

Then in August my oldest son, Clyde III, traveled with me to Sacramento. It was my third year out for this event. We had an absolutely wonderful time of fellowship and study.

The highlight of this trip was staying in the home of our gracious hosts, Darron and Robin Haworth. What a true joy they are; such a refreshment to us both!

The very next weekend our entire family, along with my dear friend and editor André Sneidar, had the privilege of attending a *Biblical Families Retreat* held in TN. It was a time of great fellowship, and I had the opportunity to speak and set up some of my books for sale at the literature table.

The last weekend of August saw us off to meet with saints in Sioux Falls, SD. Under the leadership of Tom Sargent and Dan Baker, this was the first of what is planned to be an annual conference. There was great fellowship and rich study with those who have paid a large price for standing for the truth.

An added benefit of being in Sioux Falls was that I was also able see my longtime friend Mark Peters. It was such a joy to lay my eyes on him again; I had seen him only once before in the past 23 years. Needless to say, it was a *very* special time. I am truly thank-

ful for our special union in the Lord Jesus Christ. I first met my dear brother some 32 years ago. It is my privilege to have such precious memories of our time together, years ago in Hampton, VA. For the past few years Mark has been a faithful and valuable servant to me, assisting in editing our books for publication.

September had almost the whole family off on the road again, this time to Seneca Falls, NY. André Sneidar came up from VA and we traveled together to a conference hosted by Lenny Pappano and Len Paganelli. It was held at the beautiful Cayuga State Park. We had an especially wonderful time renewing old friendships, and finally meeting saints we had longed to see for quite some time.

### A BIT BEHIND

Needless to say, all of this traveling has put me quite behind on many things. The interval between trips had me busy attempting to play catch-up on my many responsibilities.

One thing that worked really well for me during this time was the use of an automated e-mail service for the *Daily Email Goodies*. Without it, undoubtedly, there would have been few *DEGs* sent out over the past four months.

For the past decade I manually sent out the *Goodies* every day. This was a real problem when I was on the road. This new service allows me to devote a day to work on and schedule many e-mails in advance.

Personal e-mails are an entirely different matter. For the many who are awaiting a response from me, I must apologize. I have just not been able to keep up. I trust to get to each of you in due course.

### NEW BOOKS ON THEIR WAY

We are also quite behind on a number of publishing projects. However, in the next few weeks you should see new books available. Here is a foretaste of some of our new titles:

- ***Bible Student's Notebook***, Volume 14 (Issues 326-350)

- **The Deity of God** (John Essex)
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- **God's Present Purpose: The Dispensation of the Grace of God (A Collection of Studies on Right Division)**
- **Wife Loving** (Clyde Pilkington)

#### FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTORS

I must say a *special* word to our faithful contributors. You make all of this work possible. There simply is no way that I could do all that Father has given to me to do without you. Thank you for being used by Him.

#### STEVE HILL

A few weeks ago Steve Hill and his family were able to drive down for a sweet evening of fellowship. Steve

*NEW (continued from page 3293)*

By **one Spirit** are we all **baptized INTO one body** (I Corinthians 12:13).

Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized INTO Jesus Christ** were baptized into His death (Romans 6:3).

As many of you as have been **baptized INTO Christ** have put on Christ (Galatians 3:27).

Buried with Him in **baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of **the operation of God**, Who hath raised Him from the dead (Colossians 2:12).

Paul is the only one who writes about this *new* baptism by God's Spirit. What took place at Pentecost was the baptism with the Holy Spirit **BY the Lord Jesus Christ** (Matthew 3:11; Acts 11:16). Christ simply continued His ministry to *Israel* on the Day of Pentecost.

had made an initial visit by himself a few months earlier, as his family was trying to settle in after their recent move. This time his sweet family was able to come with him. What a pleasure it was to have them with us. We enjoyed dinner together and getting to know each other better. We look forward to their often return.

Steve is a very serious student of Scripture and author of scripturally-themed books. As shown in the list of upcoming books provided above, we are about to release one of his new works entitled, **Making the Most of the Bible: Lessons on Understanding God's Word**. Watch the pages of the BSN for a release notice.

My love to each of you!



Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Paul's testimony concerning *water baptism* is all *negative*.

*Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or, were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I had baptized in my own name. And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For [because] Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect (I Corinthians 1:13-17).*

These verses, coupled with the *one* baptism of Ephesians 4:5, teach us that the *new* baptism by God's Spirit is the *only* baptism associated with "the revelation of the mystery."

#### NEW BLESSINGS

Believers are taken out of the sphere of being "*in Adam*" and put into a new sphere of being "*in Christ*."

✦ In keeping with this is the fact that God has supplied the believer with *new* blessings. These are “*spiritual*” blessings that are a part of being “*in Christ*.” This is stated in Ephesians 1:3.

*Blessed [is] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the One having blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies [in] Christ.*

This is the only place where we read of “*spiritual blessings*.” In the Old Testament, the blessings of God on Israel were mainly in the *physical* realm. When they wandered in the wilderness for forty years, God fed them with quail and manna – *physical* food that they could see and eat (Exodus 16:13-18). For them, spiritual blessings were *secondary* in nature.

However, today during this *dispensation of grace*, God has reversed the order. He gives His children spiritual blessings from the heavenlies first, and any material or physical blessings are *secondary* in importance.

Our proper attitude toward spiritual blessings is found in Colossians 3:1-2.

*Therefore, since you were raised up together [with] Christ, seek the things above where Christ is sitting at [the] right hand of God. You think of the things above, not of the things upon the earth.*

One way to think about the things above is to study His precious Word daily, learning about these *spiritual* blessings found within Paul’s letters to the Body of Christ.

## CONCLUSION

Believers today should find these *new* things wonderful and thrilling. Every believer should be excited about them.

Let us take a stand for the truth of God as revealed to the Apostle Paul. Let us follow the risen Christ as Paul followed Him (I Corinthians 11:1).

*Edited & Abridged*

Footnotes provided by editor.



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