



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XVI
Issue 383

Beyond the Eons

by — Edward H. Clayton (1887-1972)

That God may be All in all (I Corinthians 15:28).

To build up a clear picture of what God's plan will be beyond the eons (ages) calls for a most careful discrimination of features which occur during the course of the eons. The character of these features has largely been evil, serving as a background to reveal God's glory. Amidst these features the creatures of the universe, including humans, have continually shown how estranged they are from the Deity. Yet the outcome of the eons, due to the glory of God's Son, will be that our interests are wholly centered in God's glory. These will not have the aspect of merely passing time, for the interests will not come from that sense of impulse, desire, but rather will they be interests which flow from the spirit, delighting in the realization of God. This realization will be the great directing principle which will obtain beyond the eons; this realization is the great outcome issuing from God's evangel concerning His Son.

If we would see beyond the eons, then it is absolutely necessary for us to assimilate fully the values of God's evangel as it is detailed in the Roman epistle. These values are the basis of everything that God will reach in His ultimate, for by the encompassing glorious themes of justification and conciliation the whole of humanity will be brought into His righteousness and His love.

ALL IN ALL

It is these matters which give us a clue to the content of the first "All" in the phrase "*All in all*." It speaks of the personal glory of the Deity, stated in the evangel,

and it is capable of fulfilling all of the aspirations of all of the creatures of the universe. These aspirations have been created amidst and within the eons, and they are filled up out of the glories of God's evangel concerning His Son.

The ordinary grasp of the evangel has shifted many matters into the term "eschatology." This telescoping adds greatly to the difficulty of viewing the glory of the consummation. Little as to God's *Deity* has entered into our hearts and considerations; we are prone to look at the creature's side. We tend to want a consummation which entertains awards and rewards. Such thoughts, however, serve to inhibit us from really seeing the truth.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

In those circles where the eons have been taught and given consideration, the location in time of the Great White Throne has not been wholly realized. That this event should be so near to the conclusion of the fourth eon, and at the same time so far away from the consummation is seldom considered. Yet it is most probable that the fifth eon will be considerably longer than all of the four prior eons taken together.

(see *BEYOND*, page 3444)

Beyond the Eons	3441
Strictly Personal	3443
Our Mailbox	3443
The ABSOLUTE Sovereignty of God	3446
The Events of the Last Week (chart)	3448
When God Speaks, Things Happen!	3449

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

FELLOWSHIP INN

A large part of my passion has always been hospitality. Father has placed this in my makeup. For a large part of my adult life there has often been someone who has lived with us, and many who have come in and out of our home.

Anyone who is familiar with my past knows that I have attempted to establish a private, family based retreat in VA. This did not progress as I had planned, due in part to my own many transitions at the time.

With this being consistently on my heart for all of these years, I anticipate that such a retreat will one day be a functioning reality. In the meantime, by God's provision and grace, our family will continue to use the resources that He has given us as a retreat.

Over the past year we have made some changes around here which allow us to have dedicated guest space for multiple visitors at a time.

I am glad to report that we now have an online calendar that will assist you in coming for a visit. It will allow you to see our family activities and who's scheduled to visit us. Hopefully this will make it easier for *you* to make your plans to come, and let you know how serious we are about having you visit us.

The new website is www.FellowshipInn.com It is still under development, and should improve as time goes on. A member of our family, Aaron Locker, has designed and set up the website with the assistance of my sons Clyde III and Nathan.

My love to each of you,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



Our Mailbox

How cool it is to be done playing church! Thanks for the freedom! – *MN*

Thank you for the words you are sending out. They are a blessing and encouragement. – *Email*

I have been reading your book [The Great Omission](#) and have been VERY pleased with it. – *NC*

I was just reading through BSN 378 and noticed a contact in the Mailbox section from someone in Australia. Honestly, I thought I might be the only Australian who is in tune with the stuff you, Martin and others are saying about the gospel. I've wondered how it might be possible to make contact with other Aussies, since the *Joints and Bands* thing doesn't work unless you're in the United States. Any ideas? – *Australia*

[Since we have had requests such as this one, we have added Australia and Canada to the fellowship blog. For those of you who live in either country and desire to post your contact information for fellowship simply go to: www.JointsandBands.com]

By way of your writings and audios, you are letting us into the private places of your head and heart, whether you realize it or not. Some of you eventually "rubs off" on me. A lot of my learning is brand new.

I have had deep issues about love that you are correcting in me by expanding my knowledge and understanding of Father's love. Your ministering to me is changing my life daily!

You are teaching about *the Happy God* with a powerfully strong message of Father's love. Brother, you are leading me and others by example and sharing your heart through your messages.

I thank Father for calling you and using you in such a mighty way for all your students. Outside of your immediate family and friends, there are also others who love you dearly and love best the bright reflection of Christ's spirit that shines so obviously in you. – *LA*

BEYOND (continued from front page)

The length of the fifth eon will allow it to reveal that much deficiency exists when factors other than life in Christ are in view, even though a tree of life is one of the details.

The glories resident now in God's Son are basic to what will be beyond the eons. Those glories will bring about that which we term the consummation, and this will be that great focusing of all of the prior glories which composed the original fame of the First-born of creation. For the consummation, the glory which God's Son acquired by the cross¹ is added to His first fame. From that time on, the whole creation will be able to approach the Deity, in the sense that it will live and bask in the light which has come to be from Him. This is light which admits no shadows, having glory which is illimitable.

The celestial beings have a need to understand the multifarious wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10), and so the same glories are to be for them. Conciliation will especially be the theme that will fill the service of the *ecclesia*. The *ecclesia* functions as the complement of Him Who is Head of the universe, Christ Jesus (1:23).

The *ecclesia* will be associated with Christ Jesus as His complement. This will be when He carries out His administration which is to complement all of the prior eras. The issue on the celestial side is with a view to the consummation. Not alone is the consummation for human beings. In the context of the occurrence of the phrase "*All in all*," the second "*all*" does not refer simply to the whole humanity, but to the remainder of the universe as well, and even God's Son is added to the same "*all*." This tells us that rule and authority is within the purview of the words "*All in all*."

THE NEW CREATION

We are familiar with the new creation from early in Paul's ministry. Barely have we grasped that its full actuality is as far away as the consummation, for we think of the new earth in much the same context as we do the new creation. Yet around the new earth, as

1. i.e., "An upright stake or pale, without any crosspiece." – A.E. Knoch (*Concordant Keyword Concordance*, page 63). For more information read **THE "CROSS": Was Christ Nailed to a "Cross" or a "Stake"?** by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

described in the Unveiling, the last book of the Bible, there is still much reservation.

It is true that the new creation is used as a figure of that very full value of salvation which is brought by the evangel of God, and thus it becomes lost to view that the first stage of this truth is peculiar to those who have been chosen out of the nations in accord with the secret of the evangel, that is, the conciliation. We need to discriminate this in order to view the correct sequence and fuller fruition of the evangel of God.

The nations of the new earth will arise from that section of living humanity which comes out from the present earth, because they do not follow the insurrection which the Adversary will introduce at the conclusion of the fourth eon. They will come from the nations of that eon, and will be those who have given heed to the details of those matters which Israel will have heralded to them in that eon. Some of the aspects of details given in John's account, stated as having accord with the world, will fit here.

The new earth is not immediately peopled with the new humanity, for the new humanity will be the outcome of the *full* spiritual glory related to God's evangel, as in the Roman epistle. Yet the level of that evangel proclaimed by Israel will provide the nucleus for the new earth, and later this will need to be raised and augmented by the glories which God reveals as the universal glory of His Son, completed in the Ephesian epistle.

THE NEW JERUSALEM

This universal glory of God's Son, with those items from God's evangel which are fully compatible therewith, will indeed cancel and remove every vestige of all that lies around circumcision. Circumcision still has some sway in the new earth of the fifth eon, though Israel's priesthood will have been fulfilled in the prior eon, which will conclude the present earth, the second of the three earths. Yet Abraham's faith will not be concluded until the nations of the new earth, as well as the holy city, the New Jerusalem, are en-wrapped in the glory of reconciliation. The wall of the city will need to be removed, for the nations, as a division of humanity, will no longer be a feature beyond the eons.



As to the terrestrial aspect, the removal of this division between humanity will bring the new earth into the heading up which has been proceeding among the celestials. God's Son will, by the *ecclesia*, have been filling out His lot among the celestials, bringing them into the reconciliation with God.

Matters will not, even yet, have been filled out to the consummation, for the Lake of Fire needs to be dealt with, as it relates to the Adversary and his associates. So, too, those held by the Second Death need to be brought within the glory of the vivifying by God's Son. Then will they acclaim both the Son and the Father.

On the new earth, the generations of this fifth eon will be measured in accord with the nations thereon, for the people will still be self-multiplying. They will be living in close association with God, for He then tabernacles with mankind. This will be the new earth in which righteousness dwells (II Peter 3:13), and it will be the first one of which this can be said. It offers much contrast to the present earth.

THE TREE OF LIFE

Affairs on the new earth will have moved along to a character very distinct from what has been hitherto; still, perfection has not been attained. Nor can it be, since the unit of the people can still be regarded as a living soul. The Tree of Life will be available, mitigating the disposition of the flesh in its enmity to God (Revelation 22:2), so that, in a large measure, it becomes agreeable to God Who will then be tabernacling with mankind. The full glory of God's conciliation is not yet being manifested; this is indicated by the use of the word "tabernacling" rather than "dwelling" (21:3). The circumstances provide a gathering glory which, to some degree, is an anticipation of the fuller spiritual values which will obtain when the eras of this concluding administration have headed up all.

The Tree of Life will furnish leaves for the cure of the nations, so that there will be no more death. God will be brushing away every tear from their eyes. Mourning, clamor and misery will be absent (Revelation 21:4). Yet this tree is not a primary basis for life. Its character is rather that of augmenting, so as to preserve, or even rectify in some respects. It repairs but

fails to reach the dominant power compatible with the fullness of the consummation.

The Tree of Life is entirely precluded by the ultimate which God purposed to achieve in His Son. In fact, the tree of life is not an item in any evangel. It only fills its function when humanity is self-increasing; this is in the fourth and fifth eons.

HEADING UP ALL IN THE SON

Even though mankind will, on the new earth, have been in such intimate touch with God, they are not headed up into Christ. Heading up is, for the universe (Ephesians 1:10), the major factor that will produce the consummation and beyond. Heading up means that all shall be subject to the Father.

The long experience with God, on the new earth, is an important factor, carrying with it many lessons and much realization of God, in order to fit them to come to and to enter into the vivifying related to God's evangel concerning His Son. No creature, item or detail can remain outside of the circle of heading up all in the Son.

Heading up is the truth which allows the eons to be concluded, and thus it is the truth which will take creation beyond the eons, subject to the God and Father of God's Son, Who also will be subject to His Father (I Corinthians 15:28).

By the vastness of His love, the Son will, in the capacity of glory afforded to Him, subject to His Own will the universe of His God and Father. All will be following the Son's wisdom, thrilled with the Son's love, delighting in the righteousness which He has brought to them from His God. They will be fully obedient to that righteousness. All enemies will have gone, all sovereignty, authority and power will have been nullified. Even that last enemy, death, will have been abolished (I Corinthians 15:24-26). This is the Son in "all." Here is the moment when the universe is almost ready to pass beyond the eons.

The Son still reigns; He is the final One, yet ever ready to be subject, and so to make God "All in all." The Son will become subject. Of that there is not the slightest

(see *BEYOND*, page 3450)



The ABSOLUTE Sovereignty of God

by — Stephen Hill

Now at His [Christ's] already drawing near to the descent of the Mount of Olives, the entire multitude of the disciples begins rejoicing, praising God with a loud voice concerning all the powerful deeds which they perceived, saying, "Blessed be the King coming in the name of the Lord! In heaven peace, and glory among the highest!" And some of the Pharisees from the throng say to Him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" And answering, He said to them, "I am saying to you that, if ever these will be silent, the stones will be crying" (Luke 19:37-40).

For me, this passage in Luke is one of the most moving in all of Scripture. Imagine Jesus walking amidst a quiet crowd and the inanimate stones on the ground suddenly coming to life, crying out in praise! Imagine being one of the Pharisees He addressed with such a humbling, powerful claim.



control over everything in His creation, no matter how seemingly insignificant.

More than anything, this passage serves to prove the *absolute* sovereignty of God. It is important that we include "absolute" or a similarly all-encompassing term when we describe God's sovereignty, because, unlike the sovereignty of earthly rulers, God's sovereignty is not limited in *any* way. He is in *complete*

Nearly all professing Christians uphold God's sovereignty on the surface; but dig beneath the surface and you will soon discover many underlying layers which prove that they really view God as anything *but* sovereign. The God of Christendom is one of great power but shocking inability. He has the desire and power to save all humanity, but man's authority overpowers His will. He intends for the world to be perfect, but man's continual failure forces Him instead to spend all of His time putting out fires. In short, the God of Chris-



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by – E.W. Bullinger

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tendom is not the RulER of men; He is the RulED of men.

The greatest assault on the sovereignty of God is the false doctrine of man's free will. In order for man's will to be "free," God must relinquish His authority. Many make the claim that God sovereignly chooses to give man free will. In this way, God appears to retain His control when He has actually given it up. Few claims defy logic as much as this one.

"Sovereign" is a title which is upheld by a set of specific qualities. When the qualities that define the title are absent, the title is no longer valid. Thus, for God to be called "sovereign," He must *be* sovereign! He cannot give up the characteristics that define His title and still *retain* the title. According to the doctrine of man's free will, it is man, *not* God, who is – by definition – sovereign.

Fortunately, Christendom's assault on God's sovereignty is, itself, under God's sovereign control. God has *planned* man's ignorance and every other wicked occurrence (*cf.* Isaiah 45:7) in order to fulfill His purpose.

[He] *locks up all together in stubbornness, that He should be merciful to all* (Romans 11:32).

Man's failure was not a surprise to God – it was planned by Him! Every moment of every life has been penned before it's begun by the Great Author Who has our every hair numbered (Matthew 10:30). No particle of dust, gust of wind, blade of grass or grain of sand moves along its course apart from the Almighty Creator's command. The sun, moon and stars radiate their light and heat at their Maker's direction. All things – great or small, vast or microscopic – are created, sustained and directed at every second by the hand of Almighty God.

It is impossible for us in our current mortal state to come even close to grasping the awesomeness of God. We can hardly do two things at once, let alone control every atom in existence! God *spoke* creation into existence. (Please read the prior sentence again.) Questioning God's power is entirely *out* of the question.

Because of man's inability to fathom the level of God's control, many view Him as more of a general manager Who controls the "big" things but doesn't bother with the "small" things. I recently had lunch with a former coworker who is on the board for a seminary in Ohio, and we discussed the sovereignty of God during our time together. He was quite taken aback by my claim that God manages even the most seemingly insignificant details of creation, and in response he said, "Well, I believe God controls the big things but not every minor detail. For example, I believe that He orchestrated us both coming to work for the same company, but not that He orchestrated us having lunch together today."

This attitude toward God's sovereignty is, without a doubt, the norm. Yet, where do we draw the line? Is it any easier for God to manage the trillions of "big" things in life than the big *and* small? If any of the "small" things that are not under God's control happen to cause a problem, what is the result? Clearly, if God is sovereign over all creation, there is *nothing* left to chance and nothing He regards as unimportant.

Proverbs 16:33 says,

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

The casting of lots was an ancient custom for randomly choosing the winner of a prize. We see the casting of lots several times in Scripture, including among the Roman soldiers at Christ's crucifixion and when the disciples chose Matthias to replace Judas. Small bits of stone, wood or other materials (the lots) were thrown (cast) into a garment (lap), and each lot was assigned to one person. The one whose lot fell out first won the prize.

No doubt, most people view this type of activity as entirely random (one of the "small" things that God doesn't bother managing); but this passage in Proverbs informs us that what's random to us isn't random at all to God. The *decision* of the lot – its direction – is ordained by God.

The more we come into a realization of God's sovereignty, the more humble and at peace we become.

(see *ABSOLUTE*, page 3450)



CHRIST^{our} PASSOVER IS SACRIFICED FOR US" LEO.TS:7-8

CONCLUSIONS

Wed., Thursday, Friday - night.
Thurs., Friday, Saturday - day.

[illegible]

When God Speaks, Things Happen!

by — Tony Nungesser

In the beginning, God said...

When God speaks, things happen. For instance, just look in Genesis 1 and see what happened when He spoke.

On the first day God said,

“Let there be light”: and there was light (:3).

On the second day God said,

“Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the water from the waters ...” and it was so (:6).

On the third day God said,

“Let the waters under the heavens be gathered ... and God said: Let the earth bring forth grass ... and the fruit tree ...” and it was so (:9).

On the fourth day God said,

“Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven ...” and it was so ... And God made two great lights ... (:14, 16).

On the fifth day God said,

“Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth ...” and God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth ... every winged fowl ... beast of the earth ... cattle ... and every thing that creepeth. And God said “Be fruitful and multiply” (:20-24).

On the sixth day God said,

“Let us make man after our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish ... fowl ... cattle ... and over every creeping thing ...”. And God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish ... fowl ... and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth ...” and it was so (:26, 28).

Did you notice that, in each instance where God spoke, the Word went out and accomplished that which it was sent out to do and did not come back to Him void (Isaiah 55:11)?



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This same principle is no less apparent when God speaks of saving mankind. His Word has gone forth just like it did in Genesis. God is no less powerful today than He was back then. Let us look at the Divine record again and see just what God has said – what went out of His mouth:

God said, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else. I have sworn by Myself, the Word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto Me every knee shall bow and every tongue shall swear" (Isaiah 45:22-23).

Now let us look into the far-off future when that Word that went out of God's mouth will find its fulfillment:

He humbles Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, also, God highly exalts Him, and graces Him with the name that is above every name, that in the name of Jesus every knee should be bowing, celestial and ter-

restrial and subterranean, and every tongue should be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord, for the glory of God, the Father (Philippians 2:8-11).

Truly His Word has gone forth and it shall not return to Him void. When God speaks, things happen.

We rely on the living God, Who is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers ...

God wills that all mankind be saved and come into a realization of the truth (I Timothy 4:10; 2:4).

Truly, when God speaks, *things happen!*

P.S. – God did not say, "This is a debatable subject."

Saviour of All Fellowship
Almont, MI

BEYOND (continued from page 3445)

shred of doubt. The Son has ever been obedient; the cross is the great evidence of that, and the Son went to that cross in His faith in God's righteousness. The Son, in His heading up, will remain obedient. The Son's glorious will is that all the glory shall be for His Father. God is the only One Who is not subjected to the Son (I Corinthians 15:27).

Beyond the eons, matters will flow from this glory, for it is the glory of God's evangel concerning His Son. There are no questions left over in regard to life, for all has been brought to God's zenith in Christ. The final detail to make God "All in all" refers to rule, not to life. Nor will there be any evils in that life; it is

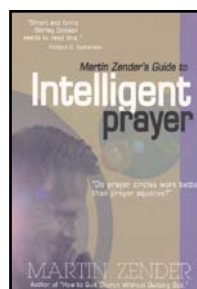
not even necessary to say that nothing will separate any from the love of God (cf. Romans 8:38-39).

EVERY TITLE OF DEITY FULFILLED

God's Son, in His original personal glory, will ever remain the token of a reconciled and subjected universe. Every title of Deity will have been fulfilled: God's name, YAHWEH, will have become exhausted with the conclusion of the eons. Beyond the eons He is FATHER. This is the designation which covers every kindred of the heavens and the earth (cf. Ephesians 3:15), and it is the issue from God's evangel concerning His Son.

ABSOLUTE (continued from page 3447)

When we see dust particles shimmering in a beam of light and realize that each of their courses is plotted by God, we are able to do nothing but fall to our knees in awe. When we recognize that every action and event is not only allowed by God but *commanded* by Him, we can rest assured, knowing that nothing is left to chance and that all will turn out just as it should. Most importantly, when we realize that it is *God's will, not ours*, that is free, we can experience the joy that comes from knowing that our Father sent His Son to save *all* without giving *anyone* the "freedom" to reject Him. ■



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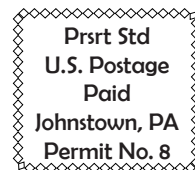
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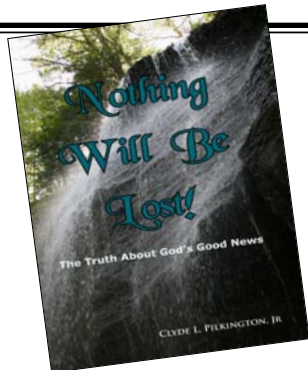


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