



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XIX
Issue 464

Through What Kind of Glasses Do You Read God's Word?

Part 2 of 2

by — Peter Meye (The Netherlands)

The previously mentioned phenomena of experiences did occur in the first stage of the church – written about in the Word itself; but, fortunately, I was able to see clearly that these “gifts of the Spirit” were a sign of the immaturity of the early ecclesia. This also applies to certain specific gifts that people received to fulfill a specific task in that period of time, for the edification of the ecclesia.



In fact, it is clearly written that we “*should rightly divide the word of truth*” (II Timothy 2:15.) What does that mean?

We are enjoined by Paul, the apostle, to learn to make clear distinctions with respect to recognizing various points of view:

Intended audience:

Israel or non-Israelites?

Time:

For which period was it intended?

Perspective:

Is the statement absolute or relative?

Let's look at these points briefly.

Intended Audience

The Word is, namely, addressed to two audiences: the Israelites and the Gentiles (non-Israelites).

(see GLASSES, page 4115)

Basically, *all* we need is God's Word, black-and-white! It's just great to realize this and stand in it.

God's Word is truly complete, so all that God wants to reveal to us about Himself is recorded in it!

Therefore, we have no need any more to rely on man's insights.

RIGHTLY DIVIDED WORD

One thing is immovably fixed: all of God's Word is God-inspired. Thus, God's Word is truth and is profitable for teaching, for education, exposure, correction, in righteousness, so that the man of God is appropriately equipped for every good work. That's the truth of II Timothy 3:16-17.

However, not all of God's Word is directly addressed to us! All is *for* us, but not *to* us!

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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).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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The central theme of the Word of God is good news – indeed, great news – for the entire creation! That is the meaning of the word “Evangel”: good news!

Well, it turns out that there are two target groups who, note well, each have their own good news, within the framework of God's timetable. Yes, really!

The message addressed to Israel is called “*the evangel of the circumcision*” and it was preached by the twelve apostles who had traveled with Jesus throughout Israel.

The message addressed to the Gentiles is called “*the Evangel of the Uncircumcision*” and it was preached by Paul, the apostle.

This can be found in various places, but it is clearly stated in Galatians 2:7, which says that the apostles recognized and acknowledged that the evangel of the Uncircumcision was entrusted to Paul, even as the evangel of the circumcision was entrusted to Peter. On this basis, then, it was agreed that each would go to the designated target groups in their corresponding locations.

It is therefore important for you to be aware of which part of God's Word is addressed to us and which part is not. Otherwise, I can guarantee you that things can go wrong if you read the message that was intended for someone else while you think it's addressed to you!

Time

God does different things in different periods of time. This also is part of His modus operandi. In one era, for example, certain rules are applicable, which are not applicable in the time periods before and after. In one period, a given system prevails and man encounters certain characteristics, while in the other period(s) that is not anymore applicable. Really! Many examples can be found in God's Word.

Once we know this, we will adjust our mindset during the study of God's Word and remain deliberately aware of this, right? That is the intention!

In God's Word are many statements that are *relative*. These are statements that must be considered from the human point of view. This is logical, because we, as humans, are relative beings.

Here are a few examples:

- those texts in which it says that God changes His mind, or,
- where it says that man exalts God and magnifies Him (which is not possible from the absolute perspective), or,
- where it says that some people are righteous (when in reality, thus viewed in light of God's standard, no one is righteous!), or,
- where it says that God asked Adam where He was (while, of course, He very well knew where he was).

Yet there are also many *absolute* statements in the Word of God – revelations that should be considered from God's perspective.

Here are a few examples:

- texts which flat out say that God knows everything, or,
- which state that all is out, through and to Him, or,
- which state that He works all things in accord with the counsel of His will, or,
- that He gives to all life and breath and all things!

Just “wham-bam,” no discussion possible!

THE WORD OF GOD REDACTED

As mentioned earlier, I grew up in an environment where the Word of God was considered as only a part of the process of getting to know God better. I also learned, in the course of time, that the composition of the Bible (so-called “canon”) was assembled by the church. That could only be in the 4th century, as the first great Christian religious organization was the Catholic Church.

This thought always filled me with a strange feeling,

because it actually affected my confidence in the infallibility of God's Word!

How very pleased and happy I was when I discovered and came to believe that it was Paul, the apostle, who first announced that he was the one to whom it was granted to complete the Word of God (Colossians 1:25)!

Indeed, I could then see various proofs that Paul actually had completed God's Word and thus, with that, carried out the end-redaction of the whole library. Immediately, after his last letter (II Timothy), Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, compiled all 66 books of the Bible (i.e., he determined the so-called "canon") and placed the books in the correct order! In this he was assisted by several other fellow workers (see II Timothy 4:11, 13).

Is that not wonderful? That gives peace and quiet (to me, at least). Now I really may know that, also in this area, the Word of God actually is infallible!

SUMMARY

All is out of God. The creation came into being on the basis of and through the Word. God wants His creation to know Him as He really is. He makes Himself known through His written Word!

Basic assumptions concerning the Word are important, so we really know in our hearts that we are dealing with a real revelation, by God, of Himself and His plan. Aspects which we, thereby, may consider are:

- God is obviously in a position to ensure that his Word is composed in such a way that, at the time of study and research, the truth is revealed and so we learn Who He is!
- God's Word is inspired, however, only in the original languages in which it was recorded! Not in any other language, for these are only translations and are not, therefore, inspired!
- In the original writings, no punctuation marks occur, or chapters and/or verses. These are made by people in their translations, based on their own insights and traditions. Also through this, unnecessary misunderstandings are created that have led to wrong conclusions.
- The content of God's Word is not exactly flattering for humanity. If the library were recorded by people, themselves, the contents would look much rosier for humanity.
- God's Word covers an impressive period of over 4000 years, during which time approximately 40 authors have been used by God's spirit to write it. Not even one contradiction is to be found in it. In fact, everything points to each other and confirms

(see GLASSES, page 4118)



247 pp., PB

See order form.

A beautiful mosaic, a 'picture puzzle' if you please, with never a piece missing. - **CA**

After going over this treatise, the apparent discrepancies of Christ's last week disappeared. - **PA**

The Harmony of the Last Week

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by — Eugene Charles Callaway

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Callaway (1864-1957) was an Atlanta business and civic leader, owner of Fulton County Home Builders and built the Imperial Hotel. He was director and a trustee of the YMCA from 1908 until 1956. He was also the author of *The Harmony of the Eons*.

The best work ever published on the subject. - **OK**

By long study and close thinking, Mr. Callaway has some quite valuable and original ideas which explain many of what have been called

conflicts in the Bible narrative. You ought to have a copy of this book. - **Court of Appeals Judge**

The largest and most comprehensive book on the subject. - **China Inland Mission**



I just finished reading [The Church in Ruins](#). Once I started reading, I just couldn't put it down. I already somewhat thought along the lines you spoke of, but I was feeling guilty about it. I felt guilty, because I thought that maybe I was just being judgmental and cold toward the brethren. After reading your book, I no longer feel guilty about it. Thank you so much!

I have been a Christian for over 44 years and became established in Paul's gospel ever since the beginning. Thank you for standing with Paul and for the boldness in declaring it to others in spite of their rejection. – *WA*

Thanks Clyde for getting us to think outside of the box, and sharing the benefits of years of experience and study! – *Canada*

My pastor is a Hyles-Anderson graduate, and it is burned into their conscience that the KJV 1611 is the infallible, perfect Word of God and never to be questioned. When I try to share the true gospel they get angry and look at me like I'm crazy.

The immeasurable amount of peace and joy I have in my heart since the truth has set me free is priceless! – *IL*

I really enjoy your [radio show](#). It's been a tremendous blessing to me. I come from a mainstream evangelical background – Campus Crusade for

Christ, Young Life, etc. In all of my zeal, I never could reconcile the schizophrenic God that was supposed to be good but left so many burning forever. I could never deal with this issue honestly, though, because I never really had any other alternatives. I couldn't make sense of it, but also didn't want to give up Jesus. I love your show because it presents a coherent and victorious picture of God – it actually makes sense! Thanks again, what a wonderful joy to be able to say God is good, and really mean it in your heart and mind! – *NC*

I just finished reading [Due Benevolence](#). WOW! I loved the book and have to thank you for your brilliant and persistent scholarship. It continues to amaze me that biblical scholars who specialize in ancient languages seem to be unable or unwilling to produce accurate translations, especially when you can simply consult a Greek or Hebrew concordance and find correct meanings. Most of the scriptural translations for the most part are the result of bad scholarship or deliberate deception. I suspect the latter.

I wish I had had your book many years ago. I was again (as with eternal punishment) bludgeoned by the "church" with lies about human sexuality. I suppose most of us who grew up in fundamentalist churches have suffered many years of shame, guilt and fear. You have helped me greatly and I am thankful.

You have been more helpful to me than anyone I have ever met. It is so good to find a real Christian who is human. – *Professor, Wheaton College*

I spoke up at Wednesday night Bible study. I read from your [I Am!](#) book. That is truly our standing and benefits of being in Christ. Many others have gotten a copy. Your work is spreading and He gets the glory. – *FL*



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I dove in within a few hours of [The Church In Ruins](#) showing up. This is big. It usually takes me agonizingly long to read a book, but regardless of my constraints and limitations I devoured this one quickly. As a fellow member of Christ's body, thanks again for this most amazing gift of your written word about the written Word. – CA

Just finished reading [The Steps I Have Taken](#). What a great little biography. I don't see how anyone could remain in an organized "Church" after reading your book. It was great. I learned much about what led you to where you are today. I am so glad that God chose you before the disruption of the world for both Salvation and to be the fantastic teacher of the Scriptures that you are. The price of the book was worth your short explanation of the term "Pastor." I have known for a long time that it doesn't appear in the original Scriptures that it should be "Shepherd." However, I did not know until I read your book that it was a person with supernatural powers to lead the ecclesia

until the Scriptures could be completed. Every book I read of yours opens my eyes a bit more. – GA

I just finished reading [The King James Version: 400 Years of Bondage](#). I couldn't put it down! – CA

Your book, [The Church in Ruins](#), is right up my alley. I gave up religion shortly after I realized my salvation. The last time I was in a church was 1986, for a memorial when my dad passed. I had to walk out half way through it.

From the day of my enlightenment I have been blessed with the teaching of Paul's ministry. May our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you abundantly for your efforts.– FL

I love the [Bible Student's Notebook](#) and so many of the other services you provide. Thank you. – CA

GLASSES (continued from page 4116)

- itself!
- Each word is carefully chosen, and not a word in it is unnecessary or missing! In fact, every word is purified seven times! This is stated in Psalm 12:6.
 - Words are spirit. If we are aware of this, then we also will study God's Word with that attitude.
 - God's Word is complete! When it was not yet complete, the spirit of God used various supernatural gifts to make certain truths known. We may now rest assured that God has revealed all relevant information in His Word.
 - However, it is of fundamental importance to correctly cut (divide) God's Word so that we are not confusing different truths within God's Plan or mixing them with each other!
 - The final editing and, consequently, the entire "canon" was compiled by Paul (Colossians 1:25) and fully inspired by God's spirit! As a result, we can rest assured that the entire content is correct and in the right order!

FINALLY

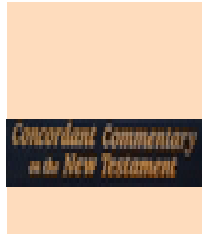
It is of paramount importance to know, through various weighty arguments, that the Word of God is really authoritative. Indeed, at this time, the Word is

the only means by which God makes Himself and His Plan known to the world, His creation!

This knowledge creates a solid foundation to serve as a fundamental starting point, so that we can, with confidence, read, study, ponder and share God's Word with each other.

Hopefully – together with me – you have also arrived at this point! ■

(edited)



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Nothing Will Be Lost! The Truth About God's Good News

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Is the Creator wasteful? Has He brought His creation into existence just to abandon it to a “Christless eternity”? No! God is the true Savior of His Own creation, and nothing will be lost. The realization of this truth about the true nature of our Father will completely change the way we look at Him and everyone around us.

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