



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 26
Issue 626

The Hope of the Third Sphere: Manifestation in Glory

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

Before considering the special characteristics of the hope of the church¹ of the One Body, it may be of service to set out some of the distinctive features of the *Dispensation of the Mystery*,² so that, perceiving the unique character of its calling, we shall be compelled to believe the unique character of its hope.



and that, during the period covered by the Gospels and the Acts, no blessing could be enjoyed by a Gentile independent of Israel. It is evident that with the setting aside of this favored people, a change in dispensation was necessitated.

Presence and Prominence of Miraculous Gifts

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE PRESENT DISPENSATION

First of all, let us observe two features that marked the previous dispensation but are now absent.

Presence and Prominence of Israel

The testimony of the Gospels (Matthew 10:6; 15:24), the witness of Peter (Acts 3:25-26), and the testimony of Paul (Romans 1:16; 3:29; 9:1-5; 11:24-25; 15:8), all combine to show that the nation of Israel was an important factor in the outworking of the purpose of the ages,

Throughout the public ministry of the Lord Jesus, and from Pentecost in Acts 2 until the shipwreck on the island of Melita in Acts 28, supernatural signs, wonders and miracles accompanied and confirmed the preached word. Not only did the Lord Himself and also His apostles work miracles, but during the time of the Acts ordinary members of the church were in possession of spiritual gifts in such abundance that they had to seek the Apostle's advice as to their regulation in the assembly (I Corinthians 14:26-40). The miracles of Mark 16, Acts 2 and I Corinthians 12-14 are not the normal experience of the church of today. Their absence, together with the setting aside of the people of Israel, constitute two pieces of negative evidence in favor of a new dispensation. We are not, however, limited to negative evidence. Scripture also provides definite evidence of a positive kind, which we must now consider.

- [Editor:] The Greek word often translated as "church" in most English versions is ἐκκλησία (*ekklesia*, or *ecclesia*). The word is a compound word meaning "called-out" (*ek* = "out"; *kaleō* = called). The *ecclesia* is God's "called-out" ones. The *ecclesia* is not a building or denomination; not a meeting, or doctrinal creed; it is not somewhere we go, or something we do, it is who we as believers are.
- [Editor:] or, the *Administration of the Secret*. For more information on this theme see:
 - *The Present Secret Administration*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #575](#);
 - *A New Administration at the Close of Acts*, Adlai Loudy, Part 1 – [Bible Student's Notebook #562](#); Part 2 – [Bible Student's Notebook #563](#);
 - *The Pentecost, Readjustment & Secret Administrations*, Adlai Loudy, [Bible Student's Notebook #497](#).

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THE DISPENSATIONAL BOUNDARY OF ACTS 28

Right up to the last chapter of the Acts, Israel and miraculous gifts continued to occupy their pre-eminent place (Acts 28:1-10, 17, 20). Upon arrival at Rome, Paul, although desirous of visiting the saints (*cf.* Romans 1:11-13), sent first for the “chief [among] the Jews,” telling them that “for the hope of Israel” he was bound with a chain. After spending a whole day with these men of Israel, seeking unsuccessfully to persuade them “concerning Jesus” out of the law and the prophets, he pronounced finally their present doom of blindness, adding:

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it (Acts 28:28).

During the two years of imprisonment that followed, the Apostle ministered to all who came to him, teaching those things which “concern the Lord Jesus Christ” with no reference this time either to the law or to the prophets (:30-31).

THE PRESENT DISPENSATION A NEW REVELATION

The omission of “the law and the prophets” from Acts 28:31, as compared with :23, is an important point. Throughout the early ministry of the Apostle he makes continual and repeated appeal to the Old Testament Scriptures. However, when one examines the Prison Epistles one is struck by the absence of quotation. The reason for this change is that Paul, as the prisoner of Jesus Christ for the Gentiles, received the Mystery “by revelation” (Ephesians 3:1-3). This Mystery had been hidden from ages and generations, until the time came for Paul to be made its minister (Colossians 1:24-27). It could not, therefore, be found in the Old Testament Scriptures.

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF THIS NEW CALLING

- This church was chosen “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4) and “before age-times” (II Timothy 1:9).
- This church finds its sphere of blessing, ...

in heavenly places, far above all principality and power ... seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3, 20-21; 2:6).

- This church is not an *evolution*, but a *new creation*, the peculiar advantage of being a Jew, even though a member of the church, having disappeared with the middle wall of partition (Ephesians 2:14-19).
- This church is the One Body of which Christ is the Head, and in which all members are equal (Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:6), a relationship never before known.

THE PRISON EPISTLES

While the very nature of things demands a new dispensation consequent upon Israel’s removal, we are not left to mere inference. One definite section of the New Testament includes special teaching relating to the church of the present dispensation. This is found in the epistles written by Paul as the prisoner of the Lord for us Gentiles. These epistles are generally referred to as the Prison Epistles.³

The Prison Epistles are:

A. EPHESIANS

The Dispensation of the Mystery
Basic Truth

B. PHILIPPIANS

Prize
Outworking

A. COLOSSIANS

The Dispensation of the Mystery
Basic Truth

B. II TIMOTHY

The Crown
Outworking

³ Philemon is practical and personal and makes no contribution to the new teaching.

The reader will find, in each of these epistles, evidence that they were written from prison and that they form part of the ministry referred to in Acts 28:31.

THE NEW SPHERE OF HOPE NECESSITATES PRAYER

While prayer should accompany the Word at all times, there is no need to pray for “revelation” concerning one’s hope if it be already revealed. Words can scarcely be clearer than those employed in I Thessalonians 4, and, if this chapter still represented the hope of the church of the One Body, there would be no need for the Apostle to speak as he does in Ephesians 1:17-18, where he prays that the saints might receive,

the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him ... that ye may know what is the hope of His calling.

THE NEW SPHERE OF HOPE ASSOCIATED WITH A PROMISE

Hope and promise are necessarily linked together. The promises that were the basis of expectation during the Acts were the promises “made unto the fathers.” Now, the fathers had no promises made to them concerning heavenly places “where Christ

sitteth at the right hand of God.” They knew nothing of a church where Gentile believers would be on perfect equality with Jewish believers. The promises made to the fathers never extended beyond “*the Bride*” or “*the Heavenly Jerusalem*,” but in Ephesians we have “*the Body*” and a sphere “*far above all*.”

In Ephesians 1:12, where the A.V. reads “*first trusted*,” the margin reads “*hoped*.” The actual word used is *proelpizo*, to “fore-hope.” Of this prior hope the Spirit is the seal, and as such is “*the holy Spirit of promise*.”

What promise is in view? There is but one promise in the Prison Epistles. The Gentiles who formed the church of the One Body were by nature “*aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise*” (Ephesians 2:12), but through grace they became,

fellow-heirs, and of the same Body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel; whereof I (Paul) was made a minister (Ephesians 3:6-7).

This promise takes us back to the period of Ephesians 1:4,

before the foundation of the world, according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus ... ▶



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

A Complete Rearrangement of the Last Week in the Life of Christ

by — Eugene Charles Callaway

A detailed exposé of *Good Friday* and *Palm Sunday*. In a 25 year study of the *Passion Week*, Callaway identified 40 common errors traditionally held by Christianity. His investigation resulted in this deep and comprehensive work.

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*

according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus, before age-times (II Timothy 1:1, 9).

The realization of this unique promise is described by the Apostle in Colossians 3:

When Christ, Who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:4).⁴

PAROUSIA AND EPIPHANY

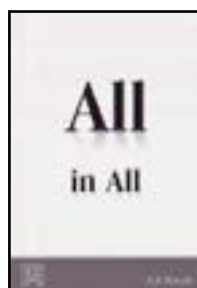
Believing as we do that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God, we must be careful to distinguish between the different words used by God when speaking of the hope of His people. We observe that the word *parousia* usually translated “coming,” is found in such passages as the following:

What shall be the sign of Thy COMING [parousia] and of the end of the age? (Matthew 24:3).

The COMING [parousia] of the Lord (I Thes-

4. [Editor:] For more information on the hope (or expectation) of the Body of Christ, see:

- Hope, Charles H. Welch, Part 1 – [Bible Student's Notebook #493](#); Part 2 – [Bible Student's Notebook #494](#); Part 3 – [Bible Student's Notebook #495](#);
- “The Hope of Israel” vs. “That Blessed Hope,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #485](#);
- The Timing and Nature of Our Hope, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #510](#);
- The Hope of Paul's Prison Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #582](#).



All in All: The Goal of the Universe

by — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

(#6269) 219 pages, Paperback

(See order form.)

This publication is a compilation of the writings of A.E. Knoch on human destiny. The author examines three major theories on this topic current among students of Scripture. The striking phrase “All in all,” which pertains to the vivification of all mankind in I Corinthians 15:28 and relates to the reconciliation of the entire intelligent creation in Ephesians 1:23, is discussed at length. Two extensive appendices are included, exploring the usage of the terms “eon” and “eonian” in the Scriptures.

salonians 4:15).

The COMING [parousia] of our Lord Jesus Christ (II Thessalonians 2:1).

They that are Christ's at His COMING [parousia] (I Corinthians 15:23).

The COMING [parousia] of the Lord draweth nigh (James 5:8).

The promise of His COMING [parousia] (II Peter 3:4).

Not ashamed before Him at His COMING [parousia] (I John 2:28).

Parousia is used to describe the hope of the church during the period when “the hope of Israel” was still in view. Consequently we find it used in the Gospel of Matthew, by Peter, James and John, ministers of the circumcision, and by Paul in those epistles written before the dispensational change of Acts 28.

A different word is used in the Prison Epistles. There, the word *parousia* is never used of the Lord's coming or of the hope of the church, but the word **epiphany**. In I Thessalonians 4 the Lord descends from heaven; in II Thessalonians 1 He is to be revealed from Heaven. This is very different from being manifested “in glory,” i.e., where Christ now sits “on the right hand of God.”

While, therefore, the hope before all other companies of the redeemed is “the Lord's coming,” the “prior-hope” of the church of the Mystery is rather *their* going to be “manifested with Him in glory.”⁵ ■

Excerpted from:

An Alphabetical Analysis, Volume 2: Hope

TOPICS:

Major: Hope; Spheres, Three; Mystery; Body of Christ; Right Division; Paul's Epistles; Glory; Second Coming
Minor: Israel; Nations; Called

5. [Editor:] For studies on the *three spheres*, see:

- *The Three Spheres of Future Glory*, Dr. E.W. Bullinger, [Bible Student's Notebook 596](#);
- *The Three Spheres: Distinguishing Between Them*, H. W. Fry, [Bible Student's Notebook #613](#);
- *The Hope of the Third Sphere: Manifestation in Glory*, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook](#).



The video [Are You Forgiven or Justified?](#) is an amazing truth that changed my life. – **OH**

I find it mind boggling, and truly a sign of the supernatural work of God that men who once stood firmly on truth are so swiftly turning aside to deceptions. I cannot fathom the attraction except to say they are divinely (or demonically?) deceived. They have even accused you and I of choosing to follow this gospel because it gives us license to sin. Yet, even Paul was accused of such things. – **Canada**

You don't know how much you have helped me in my walk with God. I will forever be grateful. – **VA**

Keep up your good work. I enjoy the [Bible Student's Notebook](#) as well as your [Daily Email Goodies](#). – **WI**

Recently I downloaded ALL of your [Bible Student's Radio](#) mp3s and have been emailing them to friends.

They are so edifying and encouraging for us all. It is great to realize that God is in charge of ALL things, and what present trials we go through are for our own good from a loving Father. It's difficult to see God's hand in the midst of these trials, but very clear in retrospect. Thank you for posting those recordings on your site, as well as your [Bible Student's Notebook](#) files. – **CA**

I can't thank you enough for your videos and writings that have helped me a whole lot in bad times. – **OH**

We dearly appreciate you and your work. – **ID**

Carry on your good work. It is of the most value to me. – **MN**

I have been blessed by [Bible Students Notebook](#). Thank you so much. You have finessed my findings on the Appearing and Acts 28. Also concerning the trinity, hell, religion, sin, and so much more! I finally have the truth I have so long searched for. I feel so blessed I can't tell you, that God has revealed this truth to me. To me! Anyways, many blessings to you from Father. Though day to day is never easy and I so often feel like an outcast no matter what I say or do, I am in such a good place. – **AR** ■



100 pp., PB

See order form.

Suffering: God's Forgotten Gift

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Two gifts given to the believer are mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29. The first is "to believe on Him." This is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God. Those who possess it may not even fully recognize it as a gift from Him, but indeed faith is God's wonderful gift to us. Faith is a rich gift from God, but there is also another gift from God to the believer, mentioned by Paul in Philippians 1:29, that is equally as glorious. The second gift is "also to suffer for His sake." This, too, is a glorious gift. Every believer has been given this gift from God as well, but those who possess it often do not fully recognize it for what it is. Indeed, suffering for His sake similarly is God's wonderful gift to us. Paul teaches us to embrace this second gift as well as we do the first!

"After over 40 years of seriously searching the Scriptures with the aid of writings from men of many varied walks, no literature has so profoundly changed my life as this book. It needs to be in the hands of every believer!" – **LA**

"It is rare to find someone who even mentions the topic of suffering, but you wrote an entire book on it, which I highly recommend to everyone!" – **Facebook**

"After being surprised by a very unexpected and major surgery for stage III cancer, your book on Suffering was most welcome, putting a lot of things in perspective." – **WI**



Editor's Desk

Mark Peters

... a faithful and beloved brother ... (Colossians 4:9).

Mark Peters is a name that always brings great joy to my heart. He is one of my dearest brothers in Christ. It was 1981 when God first brought our paths together in Virginia. For many years Mark has co-labored in proofing our *Bible Student's Notebooks* and other literature.



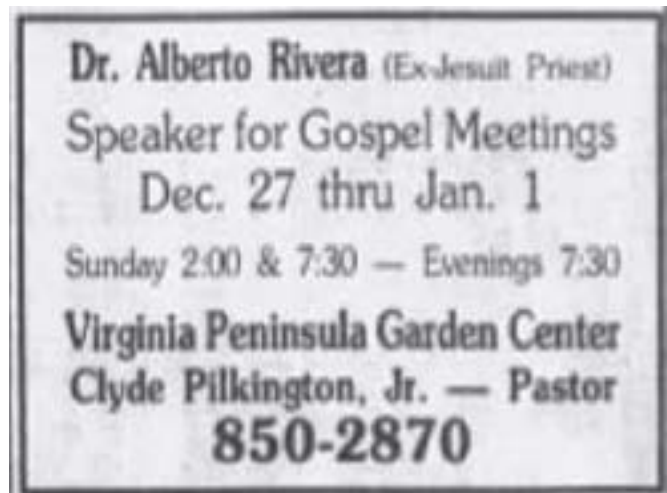
Mark in the 1980s

Recently we reminisced about our first meeting. It was in December of 1981, at the height of my former "Anabaptist" days, when I was hosting a week-long "Protestant Meeting" where we *protested* the Roman Catholic Church, led by former Jesuit, Alberto Rivera.¹



Alberto Rivera

1. Rivera (1935-1997), born in Spain, was an anti-Catholic activist. As a former priest he professed knowledge of the inner workings of the Catholic Church. He was brought to prominence through a collection of 7 full-color comic books (*The Crusaders*). This series was written, illustrated and published by Jack T. Chick, of Chick Tract fame. In *Alberto, Double Cross, The Godfathers, The Force, Four Horsemen, The Prophet, Jesuits, and The Big Betrayal* he presented his story, telling how the Catholic Church has manipulated history in its drive to rule the world.



The Daily Press Ad

We ran ads for the event in the local newspaper and distributed flyers throughout the area. Mark saw one of our flyers posted at a furniture store and attended with family and friends. Thus began the story that Father had written for our lives together.

Mark goes back with me to the earliest days of our publishing. Although from an early age I had been involved with publishing, being first the editor of *The Biblical Standard*² (1976-1980), with Mark's assistance I began publishing *The Old Paths* (1981-1985).

In those early days we began to need so much material printed that I developed quite a friendship with the local printer that we used, Louie Prince. Knowing my passion for publishing, over time he began to encourage me to purchase an A.B. Dick offset tabletop that he was decommissioning.

Mark would join me in learning to operate this machine, thus initiating many years of in-house printing. Later we would advance on to a Ryobi floor model, and then later to an easier to use Risograph; but those earliest days with Mark surely bring back fond memories.

Over the years Mark and I would be divinely woven in and out of each other's lives, until Father would eventually bring us back full-circle of sorts. Though now over a thousand miles apart, Mark would finally join me on the editing side of publishing.

2. Which we produced on an A.B. Dick stencil duplicator (also known as a mimeograph machine).



Mark today

Mark has been diligently proofing for many years now, and along with his persistent gentle spirit and ceaseless encouragement he is a gracious gift to me in this work. He is not only an able “servant, but

above a servant, a brother beloved, especially to me.”

He and I have precious fellowship together around our Father, His marvelous display of grace and His grand plan that includes all. We both have eager anticipation for His righting every wrong and fully restoring all back together in complete harmony unto Himself.

Clyde L Pilkington, Jr.

Facsimile Project

Since our announcement of the *Facsimile Project* last week, thanks to the dedicated labors of Nathan Pilkington we have additional reprints to report.

- *The Bible or the Church* (Anderson), 206 pages, \$20
- *The Buddha of Christendom: A Book for the Present Crisis* (Anderson), 206 pages, \$20
- *The Chief Musician: or Studies in the Psalms and their Titles* (Bullinger) 326 pages, \$20
- *Companion Bible NT Paperback w/o Appendix* \$28
- *The Dispensation of the Grace of God & Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line* (Sellers), 60 pages, \$7
- *The First Dispensation* (Rogers) 38 pages, \$4
- *A Harmony of Passion Week* (Hurley) 16 pages, \$4
- *How to Enjoy the Bible* (Bullinger) 472 pages, \$20
- *The King and the Kingdom in History and Prophecy* (Hallman) 42 pages, \$5
- *The Life of Sir Robert Anderson & Lady Agnes Anderson (Moore-Anderson)* 190 pages, \$20
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- *The Living and True God & The Son of the Living God* (Loudy), 52 pages, \$7
- *The Promises to the Fathers* (Rogers), 34 pages, \$4
- *Treasures of Truth: Volume 1* (Blay & Johnson), 342 pages, \$20
- *What is Sectism? Is it a Sin? or a Virtue?* (Larsen) 42 pages, \$5

WWW.URQA.COM *Universal Reconciliation Questions & Answers*

When approaching this subject from the Scriptures, many honest and sincere questions arise. This site is designed to be an interactive forum bringing members of the Body of Christ together in fellowship and study around the subject of Universal Reconciliation. We start with an initial list of 322 questions. These questions are taken from the New Testament, beginning in Matthew and working through Revelation.

*For Those Who Have Questions
Look through the list of Answered Questions to find answers to your inquiries, or e-mail us for posting to the list.*

*For Those Who Have Answers
E-mail us for the list of unanswered questions and send us your answers for posting to the list.*

Death: Whom Do We Believe?

God said to our first parents “*ye shall surely die*” (Genesis 2:16). The old serpent said “*ye shall not surely die*” (Genesis 3:4), and all of his “*ministers*” today with one voice repeat that lie, and teach it as God’s truth. Their creed is expressed for them in the words, “There is no death, what seems so is transition.”

Whom do we believe?

The Prophetic word declares concerning the resurrection of “*the rest of the dead*” that they “*lived not again until the thousand years were finished*” (Revelation 20:5). Man declares they are alive all the time without any resurrection.

Whom do we believe?

– E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)
Great Cloud of Witnesses

Our Disappointments Are His Appointments

He delights to show His mercy (Micah 7:18).

Seeing God’s sovereign hand in ALL things turns our regrets into an amazing appreciation!

Our remorse will esteem His almighty plan. Every heartache will be seen as a part of the divine tapestry, meticulously embroidered for the purpose of making known (to every single individual) His unconditional love and mercy.

Disappointments this side of resurrection create the backdrop that is critically important. Otherwise, we would never be able to see clearly the benevolent and generous intent for all of His creation.

– Mike Owens
Van Alstyne, TX

Bible Student’s Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a semi-weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God’s abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will 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 in ages past*” (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- 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);
- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. 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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