



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 26  
Issue 646

# God's Purpose in the Heavens

Part 2 of 2

by — John H. Essex (1907-1991)

Philippians also takes us into the Celestials. In Philippians 2:9, for example, we read of Jesus that,

*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 terrestrial and subterranean**, and every tongue should be acclaiming that Jesus Christ is Lord for the glory of God, the Father.*

In Philippians 3:14, Paul reminds us of “*God’s calling above in Christ Jesus*”; and in the last two verses of the same chapter, he brings out the startling truth that,

*Our realm is **inherent in the Heavens**, out of which we are awaiting a Savior also, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to the body of His glory, in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself.*

Turning now to Colossians, we read in 1:5 that our expectation is being reserved for us “*in the Heavens.*” Later in the same chapter, Christ is spoken of as,

*the Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of every creature, **that in the Heavens** and that on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or sovereignties or authorities (1:15-16).*

These, as we saw earlier, have all to be reconciled to God. No wonder, bearing in mind all of these Scriptures regarding our blessings, our status in Christ, and our expectation among the Celestials, that Paul

urges us in Colossians 3:1 to “*be seeking<sup>1</sup> that which is **above**” and to “*be disposed to that which is **above**, not to that on the Earth.*”*

Yes, it is in these three letters of Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians, that we are truly transported into the celestial realms and told something of the great work which God is to perform upon their inhabitants. Now why is all of this revelation concerning the Heavens reserved for these three letters? Why is it not revealed in other parts of God’s Word?

### THE COMPLEMENT OF CHRIST<sup>2</sup>

I would suggest to you, in all seriousness and solemnity, that the reason is this: that the great work of the *reconciliation of the universe* – the Heavens in all of their magnitude, the Celestial regions with all of their multitude of inhabitants – is to be carried out by Christ, operating in and through that glorified Ecclesia<sup>3</sup> which is His Body, *His Complement*. For ►

1. [Editor:] For more information, see:
  - *Seek and Set Those Things Which are Above*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student’s Notebook* #103;
  - *Daily Goodies*, February 27 (book, see order form).
2. [Editor:] For more information about the complement, see:
  - *The Complement Which Completes*, Frank Neil Pohorlak, [Bible Student’s Notebook #455](#).
3. [Editor:] The Greek word often translated as “*church*” in most English versions is εκκλησια (*ekklesia*, or *ecclesia*). The word

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it is only in these particular letters, the Prison Letters of Paul, that the Ecclesia is so presented. We have the Ecclesia mentioned in Romans, in Corinthians, and in Galatians; but for the first time, in Ephesians, we have it presented to us in that peculiar but sublime relationship to Christ as *His Complement*. Hence the supreme importance, the sublime significance, the unparalleled splendor, of that first chapter of Paul's Ephesian letter. Can we ever plumb its depths: Can we ever scale its heights: Always it strikes us with fresh force and with ever increasing loveliness.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the Celestials, in Christ, according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight, in love designating us beforehand for the place of a Son for Him through Christ Jesus; in accord with the delight of His will, for the laud of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved (1:3-6).*

What a wonderful passage is this, regarding the chosen ones of this era! It tells of the richness of their blessings and the loftiness of their status – blessed with every spiritual blessing among the Celestials.

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. For more information see:

- *The Outsiders*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- *The “Ecclesias” (Churches) of the Scriptures*, Adlai Loudy (see order form).

It tells of the means by which these blessings and this status are provided – in Christ. It tells, too, of the marvelous antiquity of their calling – “*chosen ... in Him before the disruption of the world.*” That takes us back long before Adam. It tells of their continued appearance in God's eyes – “*holy and flawless in His sight,*” a state which they could never acquire of themselves. It tells of the place in God's purpose for which they have been designated – a place of a son for Him. What a supreme honor! It tells of the cause which occasioned this wonderful exaltation – “*the delight of God's will,*” for it is in accord with that and nothing else. Finally it tells of the reason for it – that it might be

*for the laud of the glory of God's grace, which graces us in the Beloved.*

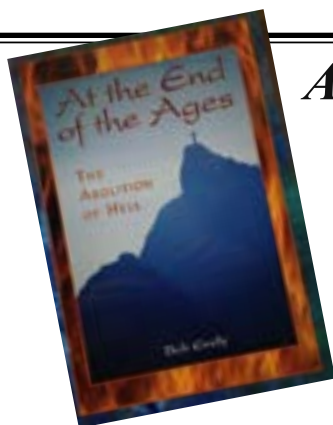
That is why we are foreknown, predestinated, called, justified and glorified;<sup>4</sup> not for any blessings that may accrue to us, although we shall be blessed beyond all measure in the process, but that the supreme glory of His grace might be lauded throughout the whole universe.

As Paul says in :11-12 of this same first chapter of Ephesians, we are those,

*... being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating all in ac-*

4. [Editor:] For more information, see:

- Designated – Called – Justified – Glorified, Frank Neil Pohorlak, [Bible Student's Notebook #352](#).



171 pp., PB

See order form.

## *At the End of the Ages: The Abolition of Hell*

by — Bob Evelyn

Is hell forever? Most say that the righteous go to heaven, and the wicked to hell, *forever!* Is this what the Bible teaches?

This book presents evidence that the Bible, in the original languages, reveals that, one day, *ALL* mankind will be saved. Through time our Bible translations have become biased through the official teachings of “The Church.” The author argues that teaching about an eternal hell slanders God, and it prevents many from having faith because the arguments in support of an eternal torment are illogical.

Would a God of love keep many souls alive *forever* just to torment them because they failed to “accept Jesus Christ” in this lifetime? The author shows that the Bible does *not* teach this. The purpose of “the eons” (*i.e.*, “the ages,” often mistranslated “eternity”) is to bring *ALL* mankind to the point where every knee bows before Him. This work is written with the average reader in mind.

cord with the counsel of His will, that we should be **for the laud<sup>s</sup> of His glory.**

If that opening passage of Ephesians 1 is so wonderful, what are we to say about the concluding phrases of that chapter,

*For you to perceive what is the expectation of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of the enjoyment of His allotment among the saints, and what the **transcendent greatness of His power** for us who are believing, in accord with the operation of the **might of His strength**, which is operative in the Christ, rousing Him from among the dead and seating Him at His right hand **among the celestials**, up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named, not only in this eon, but also in that which is impending; and subjects all under His feet, and gives Him **as Head over all** to the ecclesia which is His body, the complement by which He is completing the all in all (:18-23).*

Here again every phrase is pregnant with meaning. We are still considering matters “among the Celestials” – nay, our attention is directed to the highest point in the universe, up over every sovereignty and authority and power and lordship, and every name that is named; for it is as “Head<sup>6</sup> over all” that Christ is given to us. We are even carried forward into the eons of the future, and are allowed a glimpse of the consummation when all in all is completed.

5. [Editor:] I.e., “to praise highly” (*American Heritage Dictionary*; applaud, applause; Greek: *epaineo*, ON-PRAISE (*Concordant Keyword Concordance*, (a part of the *Concordant New Testament*; see order form), A.E. Knoch, page 17).
6. [Editor:] For more information on Christ the Head, see:  
– The Body of Christ Has Only One Head, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #527](#).

Let us never cease to ponder on, and wonder at, the magnitude and importance of the work which is reserved for us “among the celestials,” a work to be accomplished by the power of Christ operating in and through the Ecclesia which is His Body, His Complement.

The truth of I Timothy 4:10 now appears in a different perspective.

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

That God is indeed the Savior of all mankind is truly a precious truth, in the sense that it is a token. What God does on Earth, He will also do in the Heavens. He must save all on Earth if He is to reconcile all to Himself; and the completeness of His reconciling work on Earth can be taken as evidence of the thoroughness which He will exercise in reconciling all in Heaven.

Have you noticed the superscription to the Ephesian epistle:

*Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus, through the will of God, to all the saints **who are also believers** in Christ Jesus (1:1).*

God is the Savior of all mankind, “**especially of believers.**” What do we believe? We believe in Christ Jesus, the risen Lord. We believe that our lot was cast in Him. We believe that we are indeed part of the Ecclesia which is His Body – His Complement by which all in all is to be completed.

Brethren, be thinking of these things. Be seeking that which is *above*. Be disposed to that which is *above*, ►



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*See order form.*

not to that on the Earth. All things are given us richly to enjoy, and we are right to enjoy what is ours now, but let us put temporal things in their true perspective.

*Lift your eyes to the height and see; Who created all these? (Isaiah 40:26).*

Remember that just as there are incalculable numbers of suns (we call them stars) scattered all over the universe, so, too, there are incalculable numbers of beings inhabiting the Celestial realms, all waiting to be brought within the scope of the reconciling work of God. All have need to be brought within the subjecting influence of Christ.

We, if we are members of the Ecclesia which is His Body, have been chosen in Him from before the disruption of the world for an allotment<sup>7</sup> among the Celestials; and are even now being blessed with all spiritual blessings among the Celestials; and even now find our conflict not with flesh and blood, but with spiritual forces of wickedness among the Celestials; and are even now being used of God to make known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the Celestials the multifarious wisdom of God – in accord with the purpose of the eons which God makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord. *God's purpose in Christ is nothing less than the reconciling of the universe to Himself.*

May our minds be continually expanding to grasp what is the length, breadth, depth and height of God's

7. [Editor:] For more information on the believer's allotment today, see:

- *The Heavenly Allotment and an Entirely New Humanity in Ephesians*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #523](#);
- *Our Lot Is Cast with Christ*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #590](#).

love for us, and the length, breadth, depth and height of the stupendous work which is to be done through the Ecclesia in the oncoming eons. The salvation of all mankind is of supreme importance, but it is only a step in God's wider purpose, and we should be growing to realize that.

Not at the beginning nor at the end of the Book do we find these glorious truths of God's, but hidden away in the center, in these Prison Letters of Paul. For he it is who was commissioned to "complete<sup>8</sup> the word of God" (Colossians 1:25) by revealing "the Secret"<sup>9</sup> which had been concealed from the eons and from the generations, but now is made manifest: *Christ among the nations, the expectation of glory (cf., Colossians 1:27).* ■

**TOPICS:**

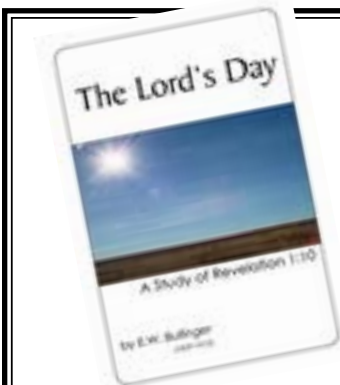
**Major:** Celestials; God; Paul's Epistles; Purpose; Sovereignty  
**Minor:** Disruption; Heaven(s); Pleroma; Salvation of All

8. [Editor:] For more information on the completion of the Word of God, see:

- *God Assembles His Book*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #207](#);
- *Daily Goodies* (book, August 3-8), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- *The Plowboy's Bible*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form).

9. [Editor:] For more information about "the Mystery" and it's "Secret Administration," see:

- *What Is the Mystery?* A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #516](#);
- *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](#);
- *Acts 28: The Dispensational Boundary*, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student's Notebook #550](#);
- *The Ranking Revelation of the Prison Epistles*, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #524](#).



## *The Lord's Day: A Study of Revelation 1:10*

by — E.W. Bullinger

The object of this work is to give proof that the expression, "The Lord's Day," in the popular belief that it indicates the first day of the week, has no scriptural basis. There are few subjects on which Tradition speaks so confidently, or diverges more definitely from the recognized principles governing Bible study.

48 pp., BK

See order form.

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# Ephesians Chapter 1

## A Comparison of a Few Insightful Greek Word Translations

Verse	Greek Word <sup>1</sup>	KJV	Concordant	Dabhar
:1	<i>hagios</i>	saints	saints	holy ones
	<i>pistos</i>	faithful	believers	faithing
:3	<i>epouranios</i>	heavenly places	celestials	heavenlies
:4	<i>eklegomai</i>	chosen	chooses	outchose
	<i>katabolē</i>	Foundation	disruption	downcast
	<i>amōmos</i>	without blame	flawless	immaculate <sup>2</sup>
:5	<i>proorizō</i>	Predestinated	designating us beforehand	forseeing
	<i>uihothesia</i>	adoption of children	the place of a son	son-setting
:7	<i>apolutrōsis</i>	redemption	deliverance	unloosening
	<i>aphesis</i>	forgiveness	forgiveness	unloosening
:8	<i>perisseuō</i>	Abounded	lavishes	Abounded
:11	<i>klēroō</i>	obtained an inheritance	lot was cast	belotted
:12	<i>proelpizō</i>	first trusted	pre-expectant	pre-expectancy
:13	<i>sōtēria</i>	Salvation	salvation	saveguarding
:22	<i>ecclesia</i>	Church	ecclesia	Outcalled

**(Footnotes)**

1. Only the first observed occurrences in the chapter.
2. Used in the marginal footnote.

**Topics:**

**Major:** Charts, Ephesians



### Leaflets & Booklets

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# Editor's Desk

## MY BIRTHDAY BOX

For my birthday this year my precious son-in-law, Stephen, built me a beautiful wooden memory box. It was one of the most touching gifts that I've ever received. It represented the great emphasis that we place on family here at the Abbey.



Stephen wrote these words to me associated with the gift:

I often wish that we could know more about our ancestors than merely their dates of birth and death and where they lived ... to really know them

– their personalities, interests, and contributions. You of all people deserve to be known by your descendants for the man you are and the legacy you will one day pass down, so that you are not merely another name on a family tree, but truly known and appreciated for the many wonderful works God has achieved through you.

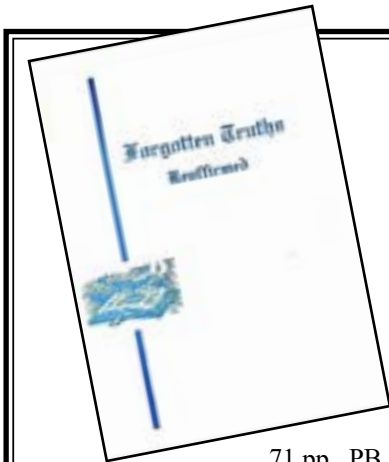


On top of the box is this inscription.

*For the preservation of the honor of Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. this chest and the contents within will be opened by generations of family, in perpetuity, each twentieth day of January to celebrate the life and work of this precious man of God, husband, father, teacher and friend.*

Inside the box was a very moving note from each of the family members.

(see **BIRTHDAY BOX**, page 5592)



71 pp., PB

See order form.

## Forgotten Truths Reaffirmed

Compiled by John H. Kessler

Author of *The Church which Is His Body* and *The Bride the Lamb's Wife*

A collection of excerpts from 27 authors supporting a dispensational approach of Scripture toward the Acts 28 position view such as: Sir Robert Anderson, Lewis Sperry Chafer, A.C. Gaebelain, James M. Gray, I.M. Haldeman, H.A. Ironside, Clarence Larkin, F.E. Marsh, J. Eustace, Harold P. Morgan, William L. Pettingill, Samuel Ridout, W. Graham Scroggie, W. H. Griffith Thomas, Leon Tucker, and Charles H. Welch.

Chapters include: When Was the Mystery Made Known? Do the Four Gospel Narratives Relate to Christ's Body? Are the Epistles of Peter, James, John, Jude and the Epistle to the Hebrews, Related to Christ's Body? What Was the Ministry of the Twelve Apostles? Is the Great Commission the Marching Order for Christ's Body? Have Baptism and The Lord's Supper Any Place in Christ's Body? Is Christ's Body, the Bride of Christ? When Was Israel As a Nation Set Aside? Where Is the Dispensational Boundary?

4<sup>th</sup> Edition Facsimile Paperback



What a marvelous book you wrote, [Divine Lockup](#). Just wonderful. Praising the Lord. So clear and precious. Thank you Clyde. – PA

I am inspired to write a quick note of appreciation for your life and say thank you for the work you do. We are so thankful that we have the teachings that you provide online. The one we just recently [read] was [The Greatest Truth I Know](#). It was awesome. Wow, what a reality. We are so thankful for God opening our eyes to see the salvation of all. Our hearts, souls and minds are freer than ever before. What a wonderful perspective – brought tears to my eyes just to know that God included me now in this breathtaking reality. – NV

I ask Father to bless you for what He has given you to share with us all. – NM

[The Church in Ruins](#) is a very powerful and persuasive book. – GA

I am almost giddy and overwhelmed at the things God has revealed to me. It is giving me a much greater appetite to know Him and His love and grace. Oh how I wish my extended family and friends would see this. They know I believe different things

but cannot comprehend what it is or why even after telling them. – PA

We are all on a path of experience driven to a definite outcome. How likely is it that we are ever going to be in complete [doctrinal] unison as we each progress in our own context while down here? It is small to think we will, and petty to judge.

A person has to reach a maturity that reasons, “I think it’s okay for many things to be open to more consideration.” This comes from security based in faith in God’s sovereignty. Once you are sure in that ... you are free inside. ... So empowering is our God-given faith. – IN

This was a fantastic [BSN \[#638\]](#) in its order and all that was written. I so thank Father and our Lord for you! ... Love is the greatest and I share with you the greatest gift! Thank you for all you and the family do! – Email

The more I understand the more I realize that, if one doesn’t understand the sovereignty of God, they really can’t get a handle on what God did in the past, is doing now, and will do in the future. – PA

I came to the realization yesterday that a God that is in complete control has to be a happy God. [*In accord with the evangel of the glory of the happy God, with which I was entrusted (I Timothy 1:11, Concordant)*] – NY



72 pp., PB

See order form.

## *The King James Version – 400 Years of Bondage 1611-2011*

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

1611 was not a high spiritual mark in the history of the church, the Body of Christ. Instead of being a grand year of the pinnacle of preservation or perfection of God’s Word, it was rather the sad depths of the subtle corrupting of God’s Word by the historic union of governmental and ecclesiastical politics.

An excellent book! – NC

Quite an eye opener to say the least! Very good! – NM

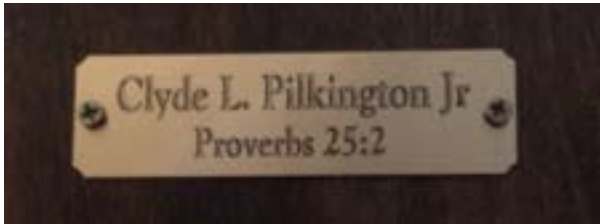


**BIRTHDAY BOX** (continued from page 5590)

Stephen had previously crafted for me a wonderful reproduction of Thomas Jefferson's revolving bookstand. What a labor of love and treasured study aid this is. It holds five books open – ready to use for study.



On top of the stand is a small engraved plaque that culminates with this verse reference: Proverbs 25:2.



What an enduring reminder of such a splendid verse.

*It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter (Proverbs 25:2).*

*It is the glory of Elohim to conceal a matter, and the glory of kings to investigate a matter (Concordant).*

My love to each of you,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.



*The Pilkington Abbey*

Windber, PA

**TOPICS:**

**Major:** Editor's Desk; Ministry

**Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 26, No. 646 – September 11, 2017

*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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