



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 29
Issue 724

"The Mystery" Ministry of Paul

(Part 1 of 7)

by — Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999)

FOREWORD

The Epistles of Ephesians and Colossians are entirely unique inasmuch as in them alone is revealed God's Secret Dispensation. In these *Mystery Epistles* alone are found those entwining and varied facets of the Great Secret that makes for such profound distinctions between the present "Secret" administrative purposes of God as over against that which had been hitherto revealed.

INTRODUCTION

Early in the nineteenth century there were large numbers of sincere believers who looked for the return of Christ at any moment. These ardent followers would have been incredulous had they been told that decades would elapse, that generation after generation of saintly people would die, that worldwide wars would come and go, that governments would be swept away by revolts and revolution, that anti-christ type of men and nations would appear, that disease and famine would run rampant, that innocent victims of aggression would number into the tens of millions, that paganism and formalism would devitalize the so-called "Christian church," and that in the face of all of this the heavens had remained silent¹ and Christ had not yet returned.

Today there is a resurgence to the doctrine of the "imminent and immediate" return of Christ. These groups point to the vast tension areas throughout the world as the "signs" of His Coming, or to the "tongues" movements² as the long awaited evidence that the "last days"

of Joel's prophecy³ had finally arrived.

Each generation tends to overlook that this same phenomena has been widespread within this country and, at its varied peaks of excitation, produced a kindred atmosphere of expectation; *i.e.*, that the Coming of the Lord was near.

How soon one forgets the dire predictions of yester-years that had so miserably failed in their fulfillments. If those former prognosticators had been living under the law of the Old Testament they would have been put to death as false prophets. "The Late Planet Earth," although chronically ill, is still here, alive and kicking, and will be here long after those supposed prophetic books and authors are outdated by some new frenzied headlines. There will always be those followers that sell their "houses and lands" in anticipation of a special recompense at what their leaders had told them was to be the soon appearing of the King and Kingdom of God on Earth.

A television "prophet" urges his many audiences to obtain his "tribulation survival" material and to place it conspicuously for those "left behind" so that they can cope with the expected Divine judgments after the "faithful" had been secretly caught away.

If the long delay of Christ's personal return has caused wonder among present believers, think of the problems that this doctrine must have presented to followers of Christ within the first century. The prophetic New ►

1. [Editor:] For more information on heaven's silence, read:
– *The Silence of God*, Sir Robert Anderson (see order form).
2. [Editor:] For more information, read:
– *The Present Truth Concerning Sign Gifts: A Comprehensive*

- Compilation (see order form under *Compilations*).
3. [Editor:] For more information, read:
– *Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration: A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy* (see order form under *Compilations*).

Testament texts bearing upon the return of Christ give no intimation that thousands of years would elapse between the time the predictions were given and their fulfillment.

The early Christians felt that the bloody history of the Caesars, during and closing the first century, was the enactment of the actual events that would surely culminate in the Second Coming. To these early believers emperor worship assumed awful proportions as each moment was fraught with life or death. To them it was Satan who stood upon the seashore and called forth the false Christ. The Caesars became the master of the sea, uniting in themselves the ten-fold sections of the empire, and proclaimed to the world the Divine omnipotence of the Caesars. They were all-powerful; to worship or to die were the only alternatives. The worshippers were sealed with the sign of the emperor on brow and hand at all levels and stations in life. If the Caesars were pictured as having seven stars in their right hand, so the exiled Seer of the convict island of Patmos would show The True Son of Man, God's Imperator and High Priest, in the heavenly courts, clothed with the appropriate garments as befitting King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords. His face was like the sun, His eyes as flames of fire, and He holds in His right hand the sign of power, the seven stars. Each message of the book of Revelation follows the exact pattern of the edicts of the Caesars. Even the seven prizes given to the victors are the same: the banquet, the crown of life, the white stone, citizenship, white garments, the place of honor, and the joint-seating on the throne. No wonder this "historical" application and interpretation of prophetic themes in The Word of God held sway over the hearts and minds of the "state" churches well into the eighteenth century.

While the older "historical fulfillment" concept is not without merit (and is the position held by many denominations), still it is open to question because of what was not fulfilled. To give a few instances from the book of Hebrews:

1. The anticipated New Earth⁴ did not arrive (1:10-12; 2:5).
2. The Great Deliverance projected with the returning Christ did not come to pass (1:14; 9:28).
3. The "... subjection of all things to Christ" did not ma-

4. [Editor:] For more information on the new Heaven and new Earth, see the contents of:
– *The Third Heaven - Our Celestial Destiny Subtitle: A Comprehensive Compilation (see order form under Compilations).*

terialize (Hebrews 2:8).

4. The "Sabbath-rest" for the people of the Covenant was never entered into (4:9-11).
5. The "Golden Age" with its powers, foreshadowed in the Book of Acts, was never instituted (6:5).
6. The "New Covenant," made and instituted to take away Israel's and Judah's alienation and rebellion, failed to find receptive faith (8:7-13; 10:16).
7. The "Good things" that were to attend Christ's high priestly office for Israel were never enjoyed by that people (9:11; 10:1).
8. The "Coming One" that was to come "in a little while" has tarried a long time (10:37).
9. The "shaking of Heaven and Earth" to remove the dross of temporal things has been awaited in vain by each succeeding generation (12:25-27).
10. The "Unshakable Kingdom," looked for by Abraham and Israel, is not here yet (Hebrews 12:28).
11. The "City of God" has not yet come out of the Heavens to a New Earth (Hebrews 13:14).
12. We see "not yet" His enemies made His footstool (10:13).

The historical fulfillment concept of prophecy failed just on the threshold of attaining some of the great goals of prophecy; *i.e.*, the return of Christ to the Earth, the judgment of the nations, the establishing of the Kingdom, the New Heavens and the New Earth. When the "Coming" did not materialize, the historical school had no scriptural explanation to offer so it gave to its followers a "pseudo-coming": that Christ comes as the Holy Spirit, and this might be at baptism, conversion, confirmation, communion or church membership. The Kingdom of God on Earth became the "church," with its parroting of temporal powers, and in its sad history it has used the sword to enforce its political decisions. There is nothing within the framework of modern nations and world affairs that approached the exact preliminary fulfillment of prophecy as did the historical, even to the fleeing of the believers into the mountains (Matthew 24:16-22) to avoid being engulfed in the unparalleled destruction that befell Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Notice how the following texts seem to favor an early fulfillment of prophecy:

And whenever they may persecute you in this city, flee to the other, for verily I say to you, ye may not have completed the cities of Israel till The Son of Man may come (Matthew 10:23).

For, *The Son of Man is about to come in the glory of His Father, with His messengers, and then He will reward each, according to his work. Verily I say to you, there are certain of those standing here who shall not taste of death till they may see The Son of Man coming in His reign* (Matthew 16:27-28).

Verily I say to you, this generation may not pass away till all these may come to pass (Matthew 24:34).

These quotations from *Young's Literal Translation* reflect the Greek text better than the AV. Some point to the scenes of the Mount of Transfiguration vision (Matthew 17:1-8) as the supposed fulfillment of this prophecy, but at the Mount there was no "Coming," since Christ had not gone anywhere; there were no reigning, no Kingdom and no rewards. Moses and Elijah are rather seen as conversing with Christ in respect to His coming death.

Matthew 24:34 is tortured so as to make "generation" mean the Jewish race. All of the immediate apostles and disciples of Christ died without having seen the "soon" return of the Lord. A moderate delay may have been implied in these prophecies; however, the long ages that have since passed have strained their credulity. Within his lifetime and in full assurance Peter wrote, "... *the end of all things is at hand*" (I Peter 4:7). Likewise James, writing to the Twelve Tribes of Israel stated, "... *the coming of the Lord draweth nigh*" (James 5:8). Paul counted himself as among that company who would be, "... *alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord*" (I Thessalonians 4:15-17).

In contra-distinction to this expected first century Coming, some texts hint at more issues involved than a mere time-lag:

Lo, left desolate to you is your House; for I say to you, ye may not see Me henceforth till ye may say, "Blessed is He Who is coming in the name of the Lord" (Matthew 23:38-39).

And He may send Jesus Christ Who before hath been preached to you, Whom it behoveth Heaven, indeed, to receive till times of restitution of all things, of which God spake through the mouth of all His holy prophets from the age (Acts 3:20-21).

Prophetically, all earthly blessings from God were bound up with the hopes and promises of Abraham and Israel. The last Israel owned of God as a nation was the Israel of the Book of Acts. Now, at this present time, they are as of a people "dead and buried," without hope and without life. The Israel of the Book of Acts could not neglect the "so great Salvation" with impunity (Hebrews 2:3), nor reject the blood of the proffered New Covenant, and do despite unto the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:26-31) without reaping the dire prophesied consequences.

If Israel is to experience a "restitution" to a former golden age, as under Solomon, or to the Kingdom prophesied in Isaiah or Daniel, then Israel must win the struggle over the flesh as did their forbearer of old, Jacob.

Jacob, the "heel-catcher," was indeed well named. He was always "Jacobing" someone out of something, hence this "heel-catcher" was always "supplanting," "over-reaching" (see Genesis 25:26; 27:18-36; 32:28.) He almost learned too late that his real heritage was a spiritual one consisting in and outflowing from his personal relationship ►



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The Twentieth Century New Testament

Though not always consistent (concordant) in its translation, this 1904 edition is a "non-hell" New Testament. It translates *hadēs* as "Grave" and "Place of Death," *gehenna* as "Pit," and *tartaros* as "caverns." It uses the word "aeonian" at times: "These last will go away into aeonian punishment, but the righteous into aeonian life" (Matthew 25:46).

See order form.

with God. It is a lesson ill learned by the nations or individuals of the Earth. Israel's House, that Temple of Peace and Prayer for all people, was leveled to the earth in A.D. 70, and with its passing, Israel ceased to be a mediating nation for the peoples of the Earth.

Fortunately, at this present time God is graciously dealing with individuals irrespective of their national, cultural, racial or sexual status.

Over the years many believers have delved into the prophetic side of the Word of God and have rested their hopes upon the soon return of the Lord, only to be thwarted of their expectations when the fore-shadowing events vividly enacted before them failed to culminate in the Second Coming. Some responded with a bold unbelief in the veracity of Scripture itself, while others wistfully wondered if they had been believing a delusion. A few questioned the traditional church's ability as a competent exegete of Scripture and felt that, with a free spirit of inquiry into the Scriptures of Truth, the Word of God might yield up treasures hitherto undreamed of that might more than answer the problems caused by the delay of Christ's returning.

1. Why indeed has God been judicially withholding His early prophesied judgments in the Earth?

2. Aside from the inexorable law of sowing and reaping, is God's silence and absence of judgment an indication of indifference on His part, or evidence of a gracious amnesty and clemency toward the whole human race?

3. Conceding that God's character and purposes are holy, unchangeable, and inviolable, still has something hitherto obscure been brought to the forefront in keep-

ing with God's redemptive will that would fully justify God's activity in stopping the prophesied and duly programmed events from taking place (humanly speaking, of course)?

4. Is the Secret-Mystery Dispensation⁵ of God's ongoing grace with its many ramifications (as revealed in Ephesians and Colossians) one of the great Divine Blessed truths that would have to be reckoned with in any computation of God's program and will for this present time?

5. Have the grand purposes involved with the great secrets of Ephesians and Colossians been projected upon the stage of the present ages with the backdrop extending into the Heavenlies, overshooting the prophetic clock⁶ and, in effect, stopping it?

VARIOUS GOSPELS AS RELATED TO PAUL

The word "gospel" means "glad-tidings." Out of its 77 occurrences in the New Testament, Paul uses this word 62 times. In today's parlance it has come to mean the message of God's salvation to the unreached. This restricted meaning is not inherent in the New Testament. The context of the usage must determine both the substance and the ones to whom it is addressed.

An illustration of this is the gospel announced in Matthew 4:23. It had a King and a Kingdom⁷ for its sub-

5. [Editor:] For more information about the "Secret Administration," see:
 - *The Administration of the Secret: A Comprehensive Compilation* (see order form under Compilations).
6. [Editor:] For more information on Israel's Prophetic Clock, see:
 - Christ's Appearing and Israel's Prophetic Clock, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #567](#);
 - [Living Outside of Prophecy](#), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #656](#).
7. [Editor:] For more information on the "Kingdom of Heaven" see:



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The Writings of M. Jaegle

Jaegle was an esteemed German associate of A.E. Knoch and contributor to the periodicals *Unsearchable Riches* and *Unausforschlicher Reichtum*.

476 pp., PB

See order form.

ject, it was exclusively Jewish (Matthew 10:5-7), and the Lord had told His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the looked-for One, “Jesus the Messiah”⁸ (Matthew 16:20; Mark 8:29). In respect to His death (Luke 18:32-33) His apostles did not understand it, and its meaning was hidden from them (:24). At the time this gospel was operative Christ had not died, no redemptive blood had been shed, and the apostles were forbidden to go to those of the nations.

All of this would make havoc of what is considered “evangelism” today. The terms of Matthew 10 are restrictive as to program, people, place and financial policy. Notice Paul’s usages in the following:

1. “ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.”

For I delivered unto you, among the first things, what also I received: how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He hath been raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures (I Corinthians 15:3-4; RE).

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, a called apostle, separated unto the glad-message of God which He promised beforehand through His prophets in Holy Scriptures (Romans 1:1-2; RE).

Of course, these were the Scriptures of the Old Testament, including “the Gospels.” That Christ died in our behalf is indeed the glad-tidings of salvation. This gospel was not exclusive to Paul; it was not hidden either from the ages or in the Scriptures (see Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22).

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- The Kingdom of Heaven and its Relationship with the Kingdom of God, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook 290](#);
 - The Coming Kingdom: Some Facts Concerning It, W.T. Broad, [Bible Student’s Notebook 634](#);
 - *God’s Holy Nation: Israel and Her Earthly Purpose*, by Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., specifically chapter 3 (Israel’s Earthly Destiny), chapter 13 (Israel’s Prophetic Program), Appendix 20 (The Kingdom of Heaven and its Relationship to the Kingdom of God), Appendix 2: Basic Distinctions Between Prophecy and Mystery (see order form);
 - *God’s Eonian Purpose*, by Adlai Loudy, specifically chapter 5 (The Kingdom of the Scriptures) and chapter 17 (The Millennial Kingdom – Israel’s Hope) (see order form); *The King and the Kingdom in History and Prophecy*, William B. Hallman (see order form).

8. [Editor:] For a comprehensive study of Messiah, see:

- *Messiah in Both Testaments*, Dr. Fred John Meldau (see order form under Other Authors).

2. “HIDDEN IN PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES”

Now to Him Who is able to establish you in accord with my evangel. And the proclamation of Christ Jesus in accord with the revelation of a secret hushed in times eonian, yet now manifested, through prophetic Scriptures as well, according to the eonian God, being made known to all nations, for the obedience of faith (Romans 16:25-26; CV).

The above *Concordant Version* quotation reflects the New Testament Greek text very well. The “Postscript” theory advanced in an effort to bind this “hushed” secret to the “Mystery” of the Ephesian and Colossian letters is not needed; it causes confusion and does not honor the principle of interpretation; *i.e.*, one does not bring a later truth into an earlier context.

This “Gospel” has to do with God’s reconciliation⁹ of the world. There is no longer a barrier between God and the people of the Earth. Romans 5:10 states how God removed the barrier caused by the sin of man:

For, if being enemies we were reconciled unto God through the death of His Son ... (RE).

This act of divine grace¹⁰ is beautifully set forth in A.S. Way’s translation of Romans 5:15-18, where God’s grace is depicted as far reaching, aye, over-reaching the sin of Adam’s race:

This First Man of the Old Life prefigures the destined First Man of the New Life: each gave a gift to humanity – the former (the First Adam), the death-fraught transgression, the Latter (the Last Adam) the free gift of Life. But note, that transgression and this free gift are in inverse proportion. Through that one man’s trespass the myriads of hu-

9. [Editor:] For a comprehensive study of the many inner-connected doctrines in this topic, see:

- *The Salvation of All*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form under Clyde Pilkington),
- *Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: A Comprehensive Compilation* (see order form under Compilations).

10. [Editor:] For more information on grace, see:

- The Nature of Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #274](#); or see *Daily Goodies*, January 18, same title (book, see order form);
- Divine Justice and Grace, Steve McVey, [Bible Student’s Notebook #290](#);
- God will Judge in Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #505](#);
- Reigning in Life: The Present Effect of Super-Abundant Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #75](#).

manity died, I grant you: yet the disproportion is as nothing to the measureless overflowings to the myriads of humanity of the fountain of the grace of God, and His bounty conveyed by the grace embodied in this One Man, Jesus the Christ. No, the bounty (grace) now bestowed is not commensurate with the mischief that came from that one man's sin. On that one man's sin followed a sentence that meant humanity's condemnation: but here, on all its countless sins, follows a Free Gift of God that means humanity's acquittal.

The great issues of the judicial silence of old have their answer in this great Gospel of God's reconciling grace to all humanity. It is so well expressed in II Corinthians 5:18-19.

*The all things moreover are of God. Who hath reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and hath given us the reconciling ministry: How that God was in Christ reconciling a world unto Himself, **not reckoning unto them their offenses**, and hath put in us the reconciling discourse (RE).*

All of this is an act of God in pure grace in which man has no part. God's way to win our affection is to pour out His love and grace first in measureless abundance as shown in His devising a perfect redemption in the work of a Perfect Redeemer on which grounds He henceforth manifested His love to all without any liens upon His justice caused by human sin or demerit. Being "all of grace," human merit would not cause it to be limited to a few select individuals, nor would the enormity of one's sins cause it to be withheld.

Not only would sin "not be reckoned unto them," but more positively it would not be a factor at all in restraining God's love to mankind. This is so vividly set out in II Corinthians 5:20-21.

In behalf of Christ therefore are we ambassadors. As if God were beseeching through us: we entreat, in behalf of Christ, "Be reconciled [let yourself be] unto God!" Him Who knew not sin, in our behalf He was made to be sin, that we might become God's righteousness in Him.

Grace now reigns, and will continue to reign beyond the extent, effect and duration of sin. In this gospel grace is to have the last word. The very downfall of the First Adam prefigured another and Last Adam to undo

the work of the first. This gospel of the worldwide reconciliation of God was not shared by the other apostles. It was a distinctly Pauline Gospel. It was not blazoned abroad; it was "hushed" during the past ages, and, with its full revelation, certain Old Testament passages took on new luster and meaning.

3. HIDDEN FROM PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES

Hidden from the ages, hidden past generations, Hid in God. And for me, that even to me may be granted utterance, in opening of my mouth, with boldness to make known the Mystery of the Good News, for the sake of which I grow old in my chains, that I may speak freely in it, as indeed I must speak (Ephesians 3:9; 6:19-20; Roddy).

This wonderful glad-tidings, with the "untraceable riches of the Christ" as its substance, is now being addressed to believers everywhere, and without distinctions of any kind. The Old Testament would be searched in vain for any trace of it, nor would it be found in any New Testament writings except Ephesians and Colossians. It is singularly and distinctly Pauline:

*Unto me the less than least of all saints was given this favor [grace]. Unto the nations to announce the glad-message of the **untraceable riches of the Christ** (Ephesians 3:8; RE).*

This "untraceable riches of Christ" is aptly spoken of by Way in his translation as, "the treasure no human search could have found," then he adds,

That I should uplift a light whereby all may see what it means, this stewardship of the Secret which has been from all time hidden away in the mind of God (Ephesians 3:9).

This "stewardship" the AV translates "fellowship," as from *koinonia*, rather than *oikonomia*, literally, "house-rule," i.e., a household of God and how it is governed. The manuscript authority is on the side of *oikonomia*. This family would be ruled by pure grace and all would be equal.

During all of the past ages this "household of the Secret" has been "hid in God" until He revealed it through Paul. A secret so well hidden could not have been prophesied. It could not have been pre-figured in Israel's Acts 2 church, or have been the subject of Joel's sign-gift

prophecies. Christendom¹¹ has nothing in common with this *secret household* under the headship of Christ alone, and in Whom all are equal.

From all nations, all races, all cultures, this would indeed be a “*new humanity*” (Ephesians 2:15) in which all distinctions had been obliterated. To re-emphasize the secret nature of this present dispensation, Paul adds that this was also “*hidden from generations.*” This secret also *completes*¹² the Word of God.

This last startling information should be a great comfort to all of us who have pondered how, through whom and when the Word of God was completed. Thankfully,

11. [Editor:] For more reading about Christianity, see:

- Christianity: A Religion of Works, David Sielaff, [Bible Student's Notebook #495](#);
- The Fixed Ideas of Religious Notions, Vladimir Gelesnoff, [Bible Student's Notebook #535](#);
- God's Works and Man's Creeds, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student's Notebook #304](#);
- The Rites and Ceremonies of Idolatry, E.W. Bullinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #449](#);
- The God Christendom and the God of the Sacred Scriptures, Ray Van Dyke, [Bible Student's Notebook #659](#);
- Spiritual vs. Religious Life, F.H. Robison, [Bible Student's Notebook #686](#);
- Moralistic Culture Clubs, F.H. Robison, [Bible Student's Notebook #689](#);
- Scriptural Apostleship, Robert Juneau, [Bible Student's Notebook #698](#).

12. [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 2-8), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- *The Plowboy's Bible*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (see order form);
- *How We Got Our Bible*, Adlai Loudy (see order form). This was also a two-part series in *Bible Student's Notebooks* #664, #665.

it is through an inspired Apostle, not through an un-inspired church council meeting many centuries later. Paul's statement also means that *all other New Testament Scriptures were written prior to the penning of the Ephesian-Colossian epistles*. No other Scripture reaches the heights of these “Mystery” Epistles.

J.N. Darby's translation of Colossians 1:25-26 reads almost like we were reading these truths for the first time:

Of which I became a minister, according to the dispensation of God, which is given me toward you, to complete the Word of God, the Mystery which has been hidden from ages and generations, but has now [just now] been made manifest to His saints.

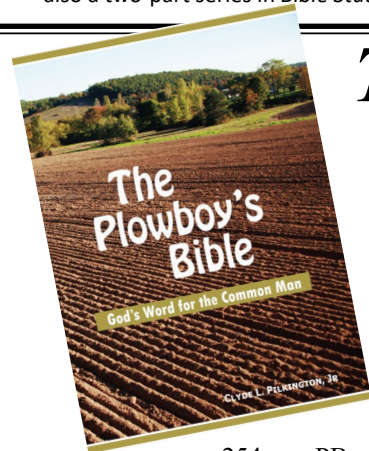
The “*grace*” character of this dispensation is set forth in Ephesians 3:1-3.

For this cause, I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus, for you, the nations, if, indeed, ye did hear of the dispensation of the grace of God given to me in regard to you. That by revelation He made known to me the Secret (YLT).

Way, in his translation of Ephesians 1:9-10 touches the meaning that underscores this Mystery:

For He revealed to us the Secret of His will, according to His determination which He had formed within Himself to carry out the dispensation that waited the fullness of the time. For His purpose was to reunite all things under Christ as their Head¹³ –

13. [Editor:] For more information on Christ the Head, see:



254 pp., PB

See order form.

The Plowboy's Bible

God's Word for the Common Man

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Shocking conclusions from the man who brought you *The King James Bible Song*.

This book represents years of study and a significant change in understanding. Raised on and trained in a “King James Only” position, most of the author's teaching ministry was centered on the defense of the *KJV*. He had early associations with major proponents of this position and their followers. He actively taught classes and seminars on the subject of Bible versions. For many years he distributed thousands of books from a collection of over 100 different titles in support of the *KJV* position. Here he shares what he has come to see that has caused him to abandon completely his former position.

things in the Heavens, things on the Earth – all, all made one in Him.

The Greek word for “reunite” is *anakephalaioomai*, taken from *ana*, “up,” and the verbal form of *kephale*, “head,” hence to “head up,” to “sum up under one head.” Christ, the Head, will reflect and be reflected in all the parts.

Christ is to be in all of the complementary¹⁴ parts, all are to bear His likeness and to share His life. He is to be the *Summation* of the whole. God’s goal is Christ and the triumph of grace! No wonder, then, that the Apostle would pen the words of Colossians 1:27,

The riches of the glory of this Mystery among the nations – which is, Christ in you, the hope of the glory (YLT).

Christ is both the seal and the earnest of the glory since His Spirit seals us and gives us His life. What a Glad-

– The Body of Christ Has Only One Head, A.E. Knoch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #527](#).

14. [Editor:] For more information about the complement, see:

- The Ecclesia as Christ’s Complement, John H. Essex, [Bible Student’s Notebook #229](#);
- God’s Purpose in the Heavens, Part 2, John H. Essex, [Bible Student’s Notebook #646](#);
- The Complement Which Completes, Frank Neil Pohorlak, [Bible Student’s Notebook #455](#).

ting this message is!

DISPENSATION OF THE SECRET

Dispensation, translation of the Greek word, *oikonomia*, made up of *oikos*, “house-hold” or “family,” and *nomos*, “law, rule or how it is governed.”

- Until it was revealed it was “*hidden in God*”;
- It was “*untraceable*” in past ages.
- It was “*hidden from*” past generations.
- It was “*a Secret*”;
- Its essential character was “*grace*”;
- It was addressed to “*the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus*”;
- It was the “*household of God*”;
- Its goal was Christ, the summation of the whole;
- It was revealed through Paul, the apostle in the Ephesian-Colossian letters.

The truths of the Ephesian-Colossian letters are given to climax, fill full or complete the revealed will and purposes of God.

(to be continued)

TOPICS:

Major: Paul; Right Division; Ephesians
Minor: Mystery; Prophecy; Prophetic Clock

Bible Student’s Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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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).

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the order form.

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ABBREVIATION KEY

Scripture Version

AV: Authorized Version
BSV: Bible Student's Version
CV: Concordant Literal Version
DAR: Darby Translation
DT: Dabhar Translation
FF: Ferrar Fenton Bible
KJV: King James Version
NET: New English Translation
RE: Rotherham's Emphasized Bible
WT: Weymouth Translation
YLT: Young's Literal Translation

Reference Sources

AA: Analytical Analysis (Welch)
BDB: Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon
CB: Companion Bible Notes & Appendixes
(Bullinger)
CC: Concordant Commentary (Knoch)
CKC: Concordant Keyword Concordance (Knoch)
CL: A Critical Lexicon and Concordance
(Bullinger)
CWS: Complete Word Study Dictionary (Zodhiates)
FoS: Figures of Speech (Bullinger)
SEC: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance
TGL: Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon
UR: Unsearchable Riches

VED: Vine's Expository Dictionary
YAC: Young's Analytical Concordance

Reference Notations

cf. – compare
e.g. – for example
et al. – and others
etc. – et cetera (and so on)
ff. – and the following
i.e., – that is