



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 321  
Issue 776

# God's Present Purpose<sup>1</sup>

## Select Readings on Basic Right Division

### Part 3<sup>2</sup>

#### THE NEW HUMANITY

This new humanity is based on the abolition of Israel's fleshly supremacy, not on any change in our flesh after conversion.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)  
*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 31

#### OUR OWN MORAL CAPACITIES

How can anyone possibly understand what grace means if he rests his security within the limits of his own moral capacities rather than in the love of God?

— A. Jackson Roddy (1919-1997)  
*Scripture Research*; Volume 5, Number 1

#### JUSTIFICATION IS NOT FORGIVENESS

Few, it is true, really set forth justification, in the sense of vindication, "not guilty," or else they would not confuse it with forgiveness or pardon.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)  
*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 22

#### FROM A DAY – TO A PERSON

God did not change the Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday. What He did do was to change from a

1. See our blog for more quotes on this theme:  
(<http://godsresentpurpose.wordpress.com/>)
2. Part 1: BSN #134; Part 2: BSN #168.

day of rest – to a Person of rest.

— D.L. McCroskey (1902-1991)  
*The Last Day Messenger*

#### PRIESTHOOD, ALIENATION AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

There was no priest in Eden, nor any needed. The presence of priests is a sign of alienation. Priesthood is part of the mediatorial office. ... The priestly office is nowhere referred to as operating on behalf of the ecclesia, the Body of Christ.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)  
*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

#### WHY ELECTION PROVES DISTINCTION

That Israel and the Church [the Body of Christ] are distinct and separate and cannot be blended, is clear from the fact that "election" was made at different dates and that the "election" of the church antedates the "election" of Israel, for Israel was chosen in Abraham from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34), while the church was chosen in Him (Jesus)

3. [Editor:] See order form.

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God's Secret Administration (Select Readings on the Right Division of Acts 28).....	6631



before the foundation [disruption] of the World (Ephesians 1:4, 6).

— Dr. Clarence Larkin  
*Dispensational Truth*

### “OLD” AND “NEW” TESTAMENTS

The division we have come to accept between Malachi and Matthew, is artificial and false – the work of man – and has led Christendom into a multiplicity of errors and confusion.

— Adlai Loudy (1893-1984)  
*The Word of Truth “Correctly Partitioned”*

### NO MERITS OR DEMERITS

Our completeness in Christ is beyond all our efforts either to improve or detract. It has nothing to do with our merits or demerits.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)  
*Unsearchable Riches, Volume 9*

## THE GRAND DESIGN

Our Father has one grand cosmic design for His re- action: The glorification of His Son – to be accom- plished in two realms, the Earth and the Heavens, through two agencies, the nation of Israel and the Body of Christ.

— C. Richard Jordan  
*The Grace Journal*

### PAUL: THE APOSTLE OF THE ONE BODY

This doctrine of the one body is never referred to by any other apostle than Paul. He calls it “*the dispensation of the Mystery*,” which he had especially been entrusted with. Indeed it was the characteristic truth of his large and varied ministry.

— H.A. Ironside (1876-1951)  
*Sailing With Paul*

## CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

Movements making extraordinary claims to “holi-

### Bible Student’s Notebook™

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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*Scripture education in a weekly format!*

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- 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 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 (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- 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).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God’s storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. 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.”

### Bible Student’s Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010 – Local: (814) 701-0063

[bsn@studyshef.com](mailto:bsn@studyshef.com)

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor  
André Sneider – Managing Editor  
Keith Martin – Associate Editor

### Managers and Assistants

Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Janet L. Maher, Stephen Hill, Cindy Pilkington, Nadine Sneider

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

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ness” are noted for laying excessive stress on experience and are, almost invariably, accompanied by trances, visions, special revelations, pretense to miraculous gifts, and other phenomena akin to spiritism.

— Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)  
*The Book of Job*<sup>3</sup>

### THE EPISTLES OF JOHN

If you want the truth concerning the Kingdom ... you will find it in the Epistles of Peter, James and Jude. If you desire truth concerning the present dispensation of grace, you will find that in the writings of the Apostle Paul.

— Dr. H.A. Ironside (1876-1951)  
*Addresses on the Epistles of John*

### AMBASSADORS

Our relation to the governments of the Earth is clearly defined by one word. We are ambassadors. Sent from the court of Heaven, we represent the Divine Government on the Earth ... It should be our settled policy to conciliate. The ambassador’s business has to do only with peace.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)  
*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 10

### THE ONE APOSTLE

My suspicion is that getting on the wrong track can usually be traced back to Christians spending too much time in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – and rarely if ever getting around to Paul, the one Apostle

assigned to non-Jews, and the only one to speak of The Mystery that actually applies to us.

— Julia Romo  
*Grapevine Kudzu*

### GOD’S GRACE

God’s grace is unmerited, undeserved, unelicited, uncalled-for, unsought, unforced, unaided, unassisted, unearned, undiluted, unadulterated, sovereign, and despotic.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)  
*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

### ISRAEL’S KINGDOM IS NOW IN ABEYANCE

The Kingdom is not in view at present. When Israel is again the subject of God’s dealings, its form will be that of the Kingdom in mystery. In that condition it will remain until the return of the King. The eight parables of Matthew 13 give us its different phases until the King comes back again. The present time is a parenthesis, not recognized outside Paul’s epistles.

— Dr. William H. Walker (1840-1924)  
*God’s Earthly Purpose*

### THE HIDDEN EONS

You will never know how much of the meaning of God’s Word is hidden from you until you understand the subject of the eons. It is one of the keywords of Scripture that has been hidden from view through mistranslation. God’s grand and glorious purpose will never be fully understood until we learn that this Greek word *aiōn* transliterated “eon” is a TIME word.



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136 pp., PB

*See order form.*

That is to say, it does not denote endlessness as it is so often rendered in our common version.

— Arthur Benta (1890-1973)  
Cited in *God's Eonian Times*<sup>3</sup>

## THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Without raising the question about where the elders of the church are to be found in our day, it may suffice to notice that this epistle, being expressly addressed to Israel (1:1), belongs dispensationally to the Pentecostal era, which will be renewed when Israel is restored.

— Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918)  
*The Silence of God*<sup>3</sup>

## MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN ARE JEWISH

The writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John belong in a Jewish age. To recognize the Jewish character of the Gospels is not hyper-dispensationalism. It is good Bible study.

— Clifton L. Fowler (1882-)  
President, *Denver Bible Institute*  
(Now *Colorado Christian University*)

## GRACE

Grace is that which gives joy. By the Greeks *charis* was used (1) of art, music, the beautiful, anything that gives joy; (2) of the desire to give joy to others. The word meant this before Christianity touched it.

(3) Then it was used of both these things together, and (4) it is the activity that carries out the desire and actually gives joy.

— G. Campbell Morgan (1863-1945)  
Cited in *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 16

## ALL IS “FOR” US, NOT “TO” US

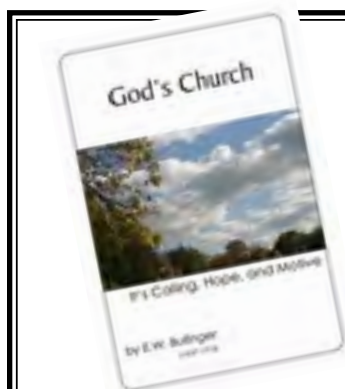
Let there be no misunderstanding. *All* of the Bible is *for* us, but it is not all directly *to* nor *concerning* us. It is all profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Without it all, and without a right apportionment of it all, the man of God is but poorly furnished and incompetent for every good work, because he will bring in confusion as respects the divine purposes.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)  
*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

## PAUL, GOD’S CHANNEL OF “THE MYSTERY”

The study of Paul’s epistles will have shown us that next to the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ, the central truth which occupied him was a special revelation, which he calls “*the Mystery*” which had not been made known in other ages. Of the revelation of this mystery, he had the honor of being the special channel.

— Samuel Ridout (1855-1927)  
*The Bible: The True University*



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## PENTECOSTAL BESTOWMENTS

If the Pentecostal bestowments continue to be dispensationally granted they must be applicable to Christian experience as a whole, and if they are abrogated, it must be as a whole. They either exist completely or not at all. In this we must be quite consistent.

— H.W. Fry (1848-1939)  
*God's Revealed Purpose*<sup>3</sup>

### ALL DISTINCTIONS WILL EVENTUALLY CEASE

It is true that all distinctions will eventually cease in the consummation when the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man (or would it not be more reverential to say, the sonship of man) will be no longer a sentimental theory but an accomplished fact; yet as long as distinctions prevail, and by divine ordination, we must give heed and recognize them if we would be unashamed, efficient workmen.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)  
*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

### LOVE ALONE WILL ABIDE

Faith, expectation and love are the abiding trinity in this administration of God's grace. Neither faith nor expectation will remain in the glory. Love alone will abide His coming. Let us believe God. Let us glory in expectation. But above all, let us charge our hearts to love Him and His with a fervency, which His love alone can inspire.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)  
*Concordant Commentary*, page 261<sup>3</sup>

## OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES

When we take the Old Testament promises and apply them to the Church [the Body of Christ] we rob the Jew of that which is exclusively his. For illustration, the prophesy of Isaiah is largely applied to the church, whereas the very first verse declares that it is "concerning Judah and Jerusalem." In the New Testament the Epistles of Hebrews and James are Jewish. The Epistle of James is addressed, not to the church, but to the "Twelve Tribes scattered abroad."

— Dr. Clarence Larkin  
*Dispensational Truth*

### QUESTIONING MATTHIAS' APOSTLESHIP

The Twelve Apostles thus stand in prominent and definite relation to Israel. It is astonishing to hear able teachers of the Word talk and write of the "mistake" which the eleven made in the first chapter in the Book of Acts in casting the lot and choosing Matthias. It is also said by these brethren who see in the choosing of Matthias an error, that the Lord wanted Paul to be the one who belongs to the Twelve. This is the worst blunder of all.

— Dr. A.C. Gaebelein  
*The Gospel of Matthew*

1946

Many believe that the recognition given by the United Nations in 1946 of Israel giving her sovereignty marks the fulfillment of these blessings. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is absolutely no correlation whatever between that little land of Palestine occupied by the Israelis today and the bor-



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by — E.W. Bullinger

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ders of that land as revealed in Ezekiel 47.

— John C. Ribbens

*The Restoration of the Davidic Scene*

## CHRIST'S KINGDOM NOT OF *THIS* WORLD

That the Kingdom was heralded, and that it was rejected by the nation to which it was heralded, is clear. The Kingdom was not “postponed,” for the “before-placing” of the eons provided for the rejection of the message.

But that God had the message proclaimed *just as if* He thought it might be accepted is quite evident. That He knew it would not be accepted is believed by everyone who recognizes God as God. When Christ said, “*My Kingdom is not of THIS world,*” He clearly implied that it will be of some other world. Only one world (*kosmos*, system) exists at a time.

— W.B. Screws (1884-1961)

*The Pilgrim's Messenger*

## THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

Over twenty years after Pentecost it could be said, “*Thou seest, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are which believe, and they are all zealous of the law!*” (Acts 21:20-21). It was to these that Hebrews was written, seeking to show the transitional and temporary character of the law of Moses, and to emphasize the unalterable covenant made with Abraham 430 years before the law, and the blessed consummation under the “*new covenant.*”

— Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

*Dispensational Truth*<sup>3</sup>

## THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: FOR US, BUT NOT TO US

If we place ourselves in the atmosphere of Hebrews the best we shall have is a combination of Davidic and Abrahamic honors, both far below what we have in fact. There is general truth of a non-dispensational character, in Hebrews, as there is in all parts of the Scriptures. The Son “*through death is to destroy him that hath the power of death, that is the devil.*” That is

general as to the purpose of God and is not limited to a dispensation, but we must be careful how we read in matters of type and antitype.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)

*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

## THE “HEAVENLY CALLING” OF HEBREWS 3:1

The high priest is first mentioned in 3:1, where also a “*heavenly calling*” is intimated. Some have connected this with the *heavenward* or *on-high* calling (Philippians 3:14), i.e., the calling *to* the celestial realms, but the grammatical structure is quite different. In Hebrews 3:1 the thought is, that calling which emanates *from* the celestial throne, where the high priest is (Hebrews 9:24). Israel has no celestial allotment, and their priestly order and work is located on the *Earth* in the Millennial age. The Jews are to be a Heaven-designated Kingdom of priests for the thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)

*Are Bride and Body Identical?*<sup>3</sup>

## WE'RE NOT OCCUPIED WITH END-OF-THE-AGE EVENTS

The believer in Christ today will not be implicated in events and with personalities of the far end of the age, in which we, as members of the Body of Christ have no part on Earth with Israel or the Nations; but we should be at all times ready for the consummation of our own day of grace that might take place at any hour, day, month or year in which we live. Whether living at that moment or having died during the centuries intervening since God's revelation to us through His apostle Paul, we will take our appointed place in His grand purpose.

— J.G.H. Steedman

*The Differentiator* magazine, Volume 26

August 1965, #4

(Abridged)

BSN

### TOPICS:

**Major:** Select Readings: God's Present Purpose

**Minor:** Right Division

# God's Secret Administration<sup>1</sup>

## Select Readings on the Right Division of Acts 28

### Part 1

#### THE HOPE OF THE ACTS PERIOD

The “*Hope of Israel*” extends from Acts 1:6 to Acts 28:20, to the very frontiers of the dispensation, and then it abruptly ends.

— Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

#### ARE PENTECOSTAL SIGNS OVER?

The evidential value of miracles depended largely upon a preceding revelation. They were a sign for those who possessed the countersign, namely the Jews, for “*unto them were committed the oracles of God*” (Romans 3:2), and when they were definitely set aside by the apostolic pronouncements of Acts 28:25-27 the signs definitely ceased.

— John H. Kessler (1914-1963)

#### THE NORMAL COURSE OF THIS PRESENT DISPENSATION

A careful study of the Epistles, especially of the latest Epistles of Paul, which give the normal course of the Church during the present dispensation, would eliminate the last vestige of Judaism from their lives and teaching, and would adjust things in general, placing secondary things in their place and first things where they belong.

— Albert Edward Bishop (1861-1947)

#### PAUL'S EARLY EPISTLES ARE SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS

Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians are ranking epistles. They unfold a secret hitherto unknown. The other epistles stand at the close of a previous economy verging upon the present and are subject to such modifications in their application to ourselves as the later epistles necessitate.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

#### THE HEAVENLY REALMS GIVEN SPECIAL PROMINENCE

It is in Paul's prison letters (Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians), and there only, that we find the Heavenly realms, with all their inhabitants, given a special prominence.

— John H. Essex (1907-1991)

#### GENTILES IN THE “EARLY CHURCH”

We learn from Acts 15 that the position of the Gentiles in the [Pentecostal] Church was only authoritatively settled some twenty years after Pentecost, and it is interesting to observe that even that settlement was on the lines and in harmony with Old Testament prophecy (Acts 15:13-17).

— John H. Kessler (1914-1963)

#### DIFFERENCES OF CALLINGS

The differences between the calling of the Acts period and the Ephesian period are differences of dispensation, sphere of glory, constitution, and the like.

— Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

#### LIVING IN DIVINE ACCEPTANCE

When you take a lower position, when you deny it or doubt it, you are *not* acting “*to the praise of the glory of His grace*” (Ephesians 1:6).

— F.W. Davis (1879-1926)

#### PAUL'S JEWISH EPISTLES

As Daniel prophesied about the “*abomination of desolation*” (12:11, mentioned by Christ in Matthew 24:15), then Paul's mention of it in II Thessalonians 2:3 (“*man of sin ... son of perdition*”) can't have anything to do with the events of this present dispensation of grace as related to the Church, the Body of Christ. This is further evidence that Paul's Thessalonian epistles are more specifically ap-

1. See our blog for more quotes on this theme:

<https://godssecretadministration.wordpress.com/>

aplicable to the Jewish assembly in reference to the future pre-millennial kingdom.

— André Sneidar

### THE ABOVE-HEAVENLY SPHERE OF BLESSINGS

Paul, in prison, wrote his last epistles, making known the subject of the special revelations he had received about the above-heavenly (*epouraniois*) sphere of blessings, and announcing a complete change of dispensation brought about by the temporary setting aside of Israel: no longer a chosen people, no longer any sign of the nearness of the Kingdom, no more fulfillment of the prophecies.

— S. Van Mierlo

*The Development of Christendom*

### CONQUERORS, COMMANDERS, CONTROLLERS

Why are we so often fretful, fearful and fruitless under the circumstances of life? We are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. This exalted place of power means that “*in Christ*” we are conquerors over all the rebel hosts of iniquity, commanders over all “*principalities and powers,*” the controllers over all in His universe. Can we think of anything greater? Could we wish anything more exalted?

— William B. Hallman (1903-1973)

*In the Heavenlies*

### ISRAEL’S HOPE AND SIGNS

Israel’s hope (Acts 28:20) and Israel’s signs (28:1-9) did not cease with Matthew 28 or Acts 2 but remained to the end of the Acts. ’Til then, the Gentile believer had been but a wild olive grafted into the stock of Israel. In Acts 28 the Israelite stock is cut down; the axe, so long laid to the

root of tree, does its work. A new dispensation with new terms is ushered in – the Dispensation of the Grace of God for the Gentiles committed to Paul the prisoner of the Lord (Ephesians 3:1).

— Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

### THE HOPE OF ISRAEL

... because that for *THE HOPE OF ISRAEL* I am bound with this chain (Acts 28:20).

*The Hope of Israel* is voiced in Acts 1:6; it is pledged in Acts 2:1-21; it is conditional upon Israel’s repentance (Acts 3:19-26); it is only possible in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:10-12); and it is attested by miracle and signs (Acts 2 to 28). Will that *Hope of Israel* be attained? Yes, for the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

— Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

*The Apostle of the Reconciliation*

### AIR, NOT HEAVEN

In keeping with the lower plane of blessing the Thessalonians were told of the coming of the Lord and they were to be caught up to the air (not heaven) ... Philippians, which deals with the practical application of Ephesian doctrine, places the hope in its new celestial setting, and brings it to its zenith glory.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

*Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 2

“What Is ‘The Mystery’?”

**BSN**

#### TOPICS:

**Major:** Select Readings: God’s Secret Administration

**Minor:** Acts, the Book of; Administrations; Right Division



65 pp., PB

See order form.

## *The Steps I Have Taken*

A Short Autobiographical Work

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Many times over the years Clyde has been asked how he got from an Independent Baptist pastor to where he is now: from a hell-fire and brimstone street preacher to a herald of the good news of “the happy God.” This work is a short chronicle of his journey: leaving the confines of religious bondage to enjoy the life of God in the wide open spaces of His grace.