



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 321
Issue 778

Portals

Gateways to Divine Orientation

(A Collection of Scripture Verses Facilitating Spiritual Disposition)

Part 2¹

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

DIVINE AWARENESS

Seeing God and His Creation with Enlightened Perception

For us, who love God, who are the called according to His purpose, there is an awareness that He is working all together for good (Romans 8:28).

The One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11).

Regardless of how things may appear to the contrary, God is “working all together for good.” This divine awareness is a priceless possession.

As our friend Mike Owens has wonderfully written,

God is working ALL together for good! Not for some, but everyone.

When Paul states “who love God,” he is not saying that God is only working all together for good in the lives of those who love God. He is stating that those who love God are **aware** of this truth.

Our love for God brings “awareness”; it is NOT



the trigger that causes God to suddenly begin to work all together for our good.

Jim Coram shares great insight concerning Romans 8:28.

It is not only that God is working all together for *the good* of those individuals who are loving Him, but that God is working *all* together for good. Period. His operations for good are not confined to matters of our own welfare, but concern the best interests of all. They encompass all that exists and all that occurs. God is the Worker of all, for He “*is working all*.”

Ephesians 1:11 declares that God (*Theos*, PLACER) is operating (IN-ACTing) *all*. Romans 8:28 reveals that He is doing so for *good*. This is His *purpose*. Paul says that those individuals who are truly loving *the Placer* not only believe this but are *aware* that this is so.

Immature believers may love the “*heavenly Father*” while being very far from loving *God*, “*the Placer*” – “*the only true God*” or Subjector (John 17:3). God cannot be *loved* as God when He is not even recognized (much less glorified and thanked) *as God*.²

1. [Editor:] This is part of a continuing series. Part 1 (Romans 11:36) can be found in [Bible Student's Notebook #508](#).

2. For the broader context of his statements see [Bible Student's Notebook #510](#). Also see our friend Dean Wilkinson's article “Is Romans 8:28 Really True?” in [Bible Student's Notebook #532](#).



GOD IS OPERATING ALL

Life is far from being a random series of events. Rather, God is Elohim (Originator), Theos (Placer) and El (Subjector), and He is operating “all.” Indeed, nothing is outside of His wise operation. He is,

The One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11, Concordant).

The simple fact of the matter is that God is skillfully operating His plan (*logos*) to perfection and completion, and it is as good as done.

... the works were **finished** from the foundation³ of the world (Hebrews 4:3).

Consider what these able Bible teachers have said concerning these tremendous truths:

God is the Captain of the ship of the universe; all of His creatures are its passengers. — John H. Essex (1907-1991)

I would not abate one hair's breadth of God's supremacy – let the consequences be what they may. — Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925)

God is the God of certainty and not of chance, and He has “made up His mind,” and the ages are working out His plan. — Alan Burns (1884-1929)

Since God works “all together for good,” and operates “all in accord with the counsel of His will,” there is nothing that is left out of His direction and control. This is because it all springs forth from His decree.

Let us briefly survey, with as few added words as possible, God's sovereignty in some of the basic operations of His creation.

God Is Operating All:

In Nature

He changes the times and the seasons (Daniel 2:21).

3. “disruption” (Concordant).

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 32, No. 778 – July 15, 2019

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

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

Managers and Assistants

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

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

Copyright © 1989-2019 Bible Student's Press™

Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his Word (Psalm 148:8).

He says to the snow, "Be on the earth;" likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength (Job 37:6).

By the breath of God frost is given (Job 37:10).

He withholds the waters, and they dry up: also he sends them out, and they overturn the earth (Job 12:15).

He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouses (Psalm 135:6-7).

He spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes. He hurls down His hail like pebbles. ... He sends His Word and melts them; He stirs up breezes and the waters flow (Psalm 147:15-18)

When He utters His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning with rain, and brings forth the wind out of His treasures (Jeremiah 10:13).

Indeed,

All things are God's servants, working out His will. — Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

God Is Operating All:

In Animals

Concerning even the simplest of birds – the sparrow – Christ said,

One of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father (Matthew 10:29).

Christ did not say that a sparrow does not fall to the ground "without your Father knowing," but rather "without your Father." Grasping the full significance of this, not even the tiny sparrow falls to the ground outside of the presence and direction of God.

This truly means that,

Everything that happens has a meaning, only because all has its meaning in God. — Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988)

God Is Operating All:

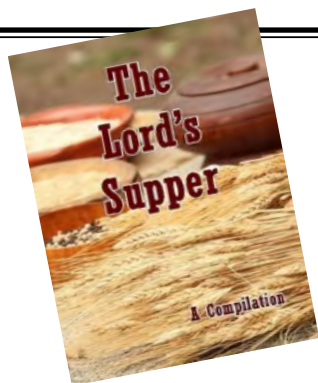
In World Affairs

The most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will ... (Daniel 4:17).

He removes kings, and sets up kings (Daniel 2:21).

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turns it wherever He will (Proverbs 21:1).

Are not You God in Heaven? Do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the heathen? In Your hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand You? (II Chronicles 20:6).



The Lord's Supper: A Compilation

A dispensational consideration of whether or not the Lord's Supper is necessary for today. Authors include Bert W. Hallman, John H. Kessler, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., R.B. Shiflet, Ike T. Sidebottom, and Charles H. Welch.

70 pp., PB

See order form.

God Is Operating All:

forehand⁴ that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).⁵

In Life and Death

The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal (Deuteronomy 32:39).

In Whose hand is the breath of every living thing (Job 12:10, Young).

God Who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways (Daniel 5:23, NKJV).

In Him we live, and move, and have our being (Acts 17:28).

God Is Operating All:

In the Details of Daily Life

My days, all of them were written in your book; the days, they were formed when there was not one of them (Psalm 139:16).

We are His achievement, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has made ready be-

A man's heart devises his way, yet Yahweh establishes his steps (Proverbs 16:9).

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man ... to direct his steps (Jeremiah 10:23).

Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way? (Proverbs 20:24).

Even when He directs our steps in ways contrary to our own plans, we fully acknowledge that even,

All of our disappointments are His appointments. — A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

God Is Operating All:

In "Chance"

Even apparent "chance" is determined by God.

The lot is cast into the lap, but the whole disposing⁶ thereof is from Yahweh (Proverbs 16:33).

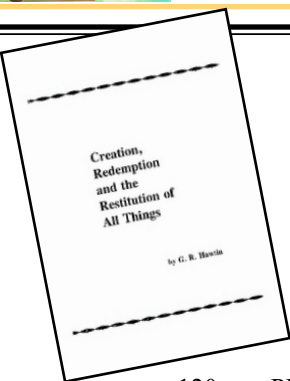
4. "which are prepared beforehand by God as our sphere of action" (Moffatt), "which He beforehand planned for us to do" (Williams)
5. Religion teaches us that we are our own achievement... our own workmanship. We are told to strive for "good work," when in fact "our" works are really God's achievement, for He has already made them ready beforehand for us to walk in them.
6. Also rendered "determination." Defined as "verdict" by Strong.



Check out a **NEW BOOK!**

Creation, Redemption and the Restitution of All Things

by – George R. Hawtin (1909-1994)



120 pp., PB

See order form.

The truths in this work are of immense importance because they are foundational. Upon their firm footing rests the whole superstructure of God's plan of the ages. If we cannot see how in the very beginning God created man for the specific purpose of ruling the universe, and to have dominion over all the vast sidereal with its infinite space and multibillion galaxies, then we have missed the heart of God's intention completely and become doomed to spend our lives

in the idle pettifogging of the Romish and Protestant systems, which give neither reason for man's existence nor cause for his humiliation and death. Even redemption, full and complete as it is and in spite of its infinite cost, will fail to reconcile and save more than one percent of all creation, if the fruitless interpretations of the Babylonish system are to be believed.

God Is Operating All:

day of evil, be vigilant; indeed the One, Elohim, has made this one along with that one (Ecclesiastes 7:13-14).

In “Accidents”

Under the Law of Moses it was said of one who killed another by accident that,

The One, Elohim, He had fated him into his hand (Exodus 21:12-13 Concordant).

God Is Operating All:

In Disobedience

When Samson desired to marry a Philistine woman, his disobedience to the Law of Moses,

... was of Yahweh, for He sought an occasion against the Philistines (Judges 14:3-4).

God Is Operating All:

In “Handicaps”

Who has made man's mouth? Or, Who made the dumb, or deaf, of the seeing, or, the blind? Have not I, Yahweh? (Exodus 4:11).

God Is Operating All:

In Evil

I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things (Isaiah 45:7).

In a day of good be resting in the good, and in a

God Is Operating All:

In Belief and Unbelief

God Himself is absolutely behind all faith as well as doubt.

God Is Operating All Faith⁷

Since absolutely “all” is out of God, through God, and to Him, faith then is certainly no exception.

For it is given to you ... to believe on Him ... (Philippians 1:29).

... God has dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

... Faith ... not of yourselves: it is the gift of God ... (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God Is Operating All Unbelief⁸

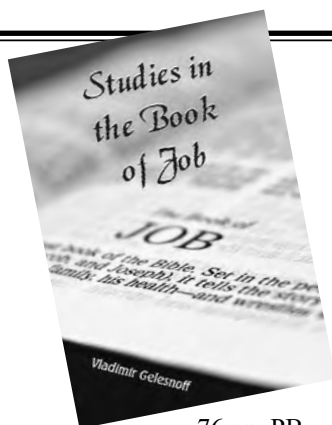
Conversely then, even unbelief clearly comes from God's hand.

... Whom He will He hardens (Romans 9:18).

... They believed not in Him ... They could not

7. For a closer look at God's operation of unbelief see the author's work [The Divine Activation of Faith](#).

8. For a closer look at God's operation of unbelief see the author's work [Divine Lockup](#).



76 pp, PB

Studies in the Book of Job

by — Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

Contents: Correct Principles of Exegesis; The Great Lesson; Antiquity and Majority Are Not Divine Evidence; Education and Erudition Are Usually in Error; Human Merit Is Inadequate; Job's Answer; The Friends' Failure; Evolution and Involution; Elihu; “God Is Greater than Man”; The Storm Rises; The Storm Ceases; The Speech of Deity; Infinite Sympathy; The Creator's Care; The Father's Care for the Groaning Creation; God's “End” Is Glorious.

See order form.

believe, seeing that Isaiah said ... (John 12:37-40, CV).

God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear (Romans 11:8).

*God did shut up together the whole to **unbelief*** (Romans 11:32, YLT).

God Will One Day Operate Faith in All

... God has dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

... He has given faith to all men ... (Acts 17:31).⁹

At the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,¹⁰ to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:10-11).

LIVING IN DIVINE AWARENESS

God is ultimately “*working all together for good*” (Romans 8:28), for He is absolutely “*the One Who is operating all in accord with the counsel of His will*” (Ephesians 1:11)!

- 9. For a closer look at the glorious truth laid forth in this verse, a truth obscured by many English translations, see chapter 10 (“Faith Given to All”) in the author’s work [The Divine Activation of Faith](#).
- 10. “No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Every day, in every way, in everything, God is accomplishing His preplanned purpose for the consummate good of His entire creation, for He has “*a desire to do the work of His hands*”¹¹ (Job 14:5) and “*whatever His soul desires, even that He does*” (Job 23:13).

When we live in such awareness it changes everything in our hearts, minds and attitudes. We see God differently and are able to embrace unreservedly the One Who alone is true Love, and to learn contentment with the will of His infinite wisdom. Little wonder that Paul could write *from prison*,

I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content (Philippians 4:11).

After all,

Godismán’s Proprietor, and will surely make the best of His property. — Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925)

WE ARE AWARE OF THE SEQUEL

The divine awareness of Romans 8:28 and Ephesians

- 11. God loves what He makes! Listen to the entire context:

*“So man lays down, and rises not: until the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep. Oh, that You would hide me in the grave, that You would keep me in secret until Your wrath be past, that You would **appoint me a set time**, and remember me! If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my **appointed time** [“enlistment,” Concordant] will I wait, until my change come. You will call, and I will answer You: You will have a desire to the work of your hands. For now You number my steps: do You not watch over my sin? My transgression is sealed up in a bag, You sew up my iniquity”* (Job 14:12-17).



292 pp., PB

See order form.

Without Form and Void: A Study of the Meaning of Genesis 1:2

by — Arthur C. Custance

Considered a classic in Christian apologetics, this scholarly analysis of the biblical phrase “without form and void,” from the opening chapter of Genesis, observes the rules of linguistics, grammar and syntax, and also examines how words are used in the rest of Scripture. This book has been described as the best argument that has ever been written for the Gap Theory.

A well respected Canadian scientist, and listed in the 1971 American Men in Science, Dr. Custance contends that we should not allow science to determine what Scripture says. Neither should we allow Scripture to determine what the scientist observes in the laboratory. Yet observed fact in the one cannot, ultimately, conflict with revealed fact in the other. Any conflict, then, is in the interpretation of the facts – not in the facts themselves.



1:11 make the believer confident that *the best is yet to come*. This first part of our life is merely the elementary stage; faith rests in the grand sequel that awaits.

Paul puts the anticipation of the sequel as that which gives us the ability to undergo the severest of trials.

No trial has taken you except what is human. Now, faithful is God, Who will not be leaving you to be tried above what you are able, but, together with the trial, will be making THE SEQUEL also, to enable you to undergo it (I Corinthians 10:13).

Here are a few examples of the Scripture's declarations of creation's assured sequel.

I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal (Deuteronomy 32:39).

The LORD kills, and makes alive: He brings down to the grave, and brings up (I Samuel 2:6).

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for He has torn, and He will heal us; He has smitten, and He will bind us up (Hosea 6:1).

He makes sore, and binds up: He wounds, and His hands make whole (Job 5:18).

You turn man to destruction, and [then] say, "Return, you children of men" (Psalm 90:3).

Thus, we are divinely aware that mortality looks forward to resurrection, sickness to health, sorrow to joy, imperfection to perfection, brokenness to whole-

ness, and emptiness to fullness.

THE RESULTS OF DIVINE AWARENESS

Among the greatest results of this divine awareness are relaxation, peace and ultimately thanksgiving.

Relax and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10, Concordant).

You will keep¹² him in perfect peace,¹³ whose mind is stayed¹⁴ on you (Isaiah 26:3).

What peace and rest are brought about in our lives by the realization of God's operation of "all." Listen to those who learned to bask in this awareness:

We have found the great secret of peace when we have learned to see the hand of God in everything. — J.R. Miller (1810-1883)

Happy is he who can see God in all things. — Arthur P. Adams (1845-1925)

Happy the man who sees a God employed in all the good and ills that checker life. — William Cowper (1731-1800)

With such divine awareness as our center, even those things which would have the appearance of "evil" in our lives and would naturally bring disappointment, discontentment and discouragement instead bring the fruit of thanksgiving.

12. "Guard" (Strong); "enrock, keep rock-like" (Dabhar).

13. Peace repeated..

14. "Lean on or take hold of" (Strong)



The Plain Guide to Universalism

by — Thomas Whittemore (1800-1861)

This work was prepared for the benefit of inquirers after truth; for those that ask, "Who are Universalists?" What proofs can be found in the Scriptures of their distinguishing sentiments? How do they explain the passages which others adduce to disprove Universalism? How do they meet the common objections? This is a work to answer these questions, and thus to lead candid inquirers to the belief of the doctrine maintained by Universalists.

408 pp., PB

See order form.

Giving thanks always for all to God the Father in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:20).

With the divine awareness that God is “working all together for good” we are able to give thanks not merely *in*¹⁵ everything, but *for* everything!

Giving thanks always for all ...

Hanging on the wall of my office are these centuries-old words:

I was going to complain. Then I remembered He is the source of all things, even my disappointments. — Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

“AS TO THE LORD”

With the divine awareness that everything, including our most difficult circumstances, comes directly from the hand of God, Paul instructs us to do all “as to the Lord.” He even extends this heart-attitude to one of the most difficult lots in life – that of being a slave. To the slave in particular he writes,

With good humor slaving as to the Lord and not to men (Ephesians 6:7).

Whatever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men (Colossians 3:23).

So, wherever we find ourselves, in whatever circumstances, we can see beyond our situation to the hand of God.

If you are enslaved, be a slave of the Lord. If you are an employee, be an employee of the Lord. Are you sick? Be a patient of the Lord.

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him (Colossians 3:17).

“PAUL, THE PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS”

Paul lived what he taught. Being found a prisoner of Rome, he looked beyond mere appearance, declaring himself to be in fact “*the prisoner of Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 3:1). We see here the power of divine awareness.

0-0-0

In concluding these thoughts we are reminded of the following, poignant statement of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965).

The consciousness of God is my most precious possession. It supports me in my trial and tempers my success. It changes life from a desperate gamble to an exultant assurance that I cannot miss His goal. I would not trade it for all the mines of gold in California. All the pearls of the Pacific could not purchase it from me.¹⁶

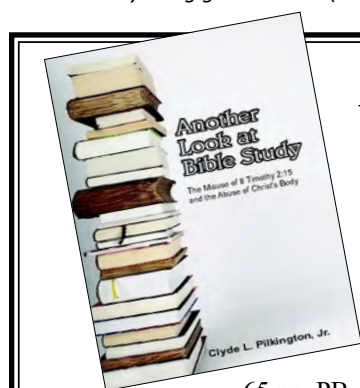
TOPICS:

Major: Sovereignty

Minor: Growth; Maturity

16. *Faith Fellowship* (Vol. 57, No. 2).

15. “*In every thing give thanks*” (I Thessalonians 5:18).



65 pp, PB

See order form.

Another Look at “Bible Study”

The Misuse of II Timothy 2:15 and the Abuse of Christ's Body
by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

“You continue to bless me with messages that relieve the burden.” – *Illinois*

“Helped me shed major bondage.” – *Michigan*

“What a freeing teaching.” – *Pennsylvania*

“Such a balm to my soul.” – *Canada*

“Finally relieved me of yet another religious burden.” – *Poland*