



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 32
Issue 790

The Deity of God

Select Readings on the Sovereignty of God¹

DIVINE PROVIDENCE¹

I firmly believe in Divine Providence. Without belief in Providence I think I should go crazy. Without God the world would be a maze without a clue.

— Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924)

GOD EMPLOYED IN ALL

Happy the man who sees a God employed in all the good and ill that checker life! Resolving all events with their effects, and manifold results, into the will and arbitration wise of the Supreme.

— William Cowper (1731-1800)

HE MADE US

The question is not what we intended ourselves to be, but what He intended us to be when He made us. He is the Inventor, we are only the machine. He is the Painter, we are only the picture.

— C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)
Mere Christianity

SIN, SICKNESS, DEATH, EVIL

In dealing with the problems of sin, sickness and death, in seeking to ascertain the origin of evil, and its existence and continuance in the world, the question to be settled is, "Have we a revelation?" If this

1. See our blog for more quotes on this theme: <http://thedeityof-god.wordpress.com/>

question can be answered in the affirmative, as we know it can, then experience and tradition have no voice in the matter.

— Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

DAY PLAYERS IN A MUCH BIGGER MOVIE

Life itself tricks us. It misleads us. It paints one man a hero when he may well be a villain. Hero or a villain? Villain or a hero? Maybe the heroes and villains of our stories are actually just day players in a much bigger movie.

— Abby (*Life Itself*)

GOD'S SURE PURPOSE

It is God's will, and I delight in it even when it disappoints my hopes. As for God, His way is perfect; He has a purpose which He is steadily carrying out, and He is making all things work together to accomplish it. That purpose is that we may be conformed to the image of His Son, and – with all our perverseness and unbelief, and the thousand other things that we are ashamed of as we look back on our past lives – that purpose will one day be completely accomplished. How fine we shall be then!

— J.G. M'Vicker (1826-1900)
God's Sure Purpose

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NO CREATURE CAN HINDER GOD

I no longer believe that God ever did create a being that was capable of hindering or frustrating any of His loving plans or purposes, and they that believe Satan ever accomplished anything along that line know not God, and many, very many, who profess to love and serve Him are actually ignorant of His wisdom, power and love.

— Thomas E. McDaniel
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 22 (1931)

THE NEED OF SIN

Love lacks a foil for its display in a perfect environment. ... Above all other things there was need of sin, which would produce suffering and misery, so that there would be the need and the desire for a Savior; as well as estrangement and enmity in human hearts, so that there could be reconciliation, and humanity could be drawn closer to the heart of God than any others

of His creatures. This demands an imperfect environment to produce it.

— A.E. Knoch,
Creation and Disruption

THE PURPOSE OF SIN

Sin is not His tyrant but His slave. It crushes that He may cure. It kills that He may make alive. Its function is to show God's creatures their utter dependence on His power. It gives them a wholesome horror of existence without Him. It will change them from His creatures to His friends. It will drive them into His bosom.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Deity; God; Sovereignty
Minor: Gleanings

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Volume 32, No. 790 – October 7, 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™

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

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The Uniqueness of Our Calling

Part 3 of 3

Paul's Unique Latter Ministry

(Unique Dispensation – Unique Dynamic – Unique Destiny)

by — William B. Hallman (1903-1973)

There are three specific areas in which the truth of Paul's latter ministry can be seen.

First of all, we have a unique dispensation. Secondly, we have a unique dynamic. Thirdly, we have a unique destiny.

OUR UNIQUE DISPENSATION

If ye have heard of the dispensation [administration] of the grace of God, which was given to me towards you (Ephesians 3:2).

And to enlighten all as to what is the dispensation [administration] of the secret which has been hidden from the ages in God Who created all things by Jesus Christ (:9).

Of which I became a servant according to the dispensation of God which is given me towards you to complete [fulfill] the Word of God (Colossians 1:25).

To be dispensational in one's interpretation of Scripture is not always acceptable in the realm of theological or church circles. But if we are undispensational,

or anti-dispensational, what do we do with Paul's statement in Colossians 1:25?

To be dispensational is to be scriptural, because the word appears in the Scriptures. Twenty times we read these three words: *oikonomia*, *oikonomos* and *oikonomeo*. Since the word is used so many times, that indicates that we should pay attention to what is being said.

This Dispensation Is Unique Relative to Its Time

*And you that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now** hath He reconciled (Colossians 1:21).*

*But **now** in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).*

*Even the Secret which hath been hid from ages and from generations but **now** is made manifest to His saints (Colossians 1:26).*

I have emphasized the little adverb "now" in all three of these verses. This word is usually a transla-



Water Baptism

A Compilation

This work answers the question as to whether or not water baptism is a part of this current dispensation. Nine chapters from the following authors: Oscar M. Baker, Denis Durham, Stephen Hill, Richard Jordan, Kenneth J. Morgan, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Ike T. Sidebottom.

94 pp., PB

See order form.

tion of the Greek word *nun*, but in these three verses the holy spirit has added a letter, making the word *nuni*. What does that mean? This letter is known as the “iota demonstrative.” Thus, *nuni* signifies that at this very moment, not before, not in the future, but **RIGHT NOW**, the truth is being revealed.

Nuni puts Paul’s statement in a category of something that is *absolutely* new. God has emphasized it in this one small adverb. Paul is saying, therefore, that *right now* this truth is being revealed: not in the Book of Revelation, not in the Gospels, not at any time before, and not after. The ministry that Paul is talking about here is a revelation given him as a prisoner.

This Dispensation Is Unique Relative to Its Place

In reading the book of Ephesians, we notice that five times the expression “*in the heavenlies*” is used. We find it in Ephesians 1:3, 20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12.

There are three spheres of blessing. Some are going to inherit the Earth. Jesus, in His great Sermon on the Mount, said, “*Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth*” (Matthew 5:5).

Others are going to inherit the New Jerusalem. In Hebrews 11:10, 16 we see that “*Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker was God.*” That city of Jerusalem is a satellite that is coming down from heaven to rest upon the Earth in the New Heavens and the New Earth. It is possible that the New Jerusalem will hang in the Heavens like a satellite during the Millennial Kingdom. Then when God comes to reno-

vate the Earth, the city will come down here upon Earth. The point is that there is a special group, different from those who are going to inherit the Earth.

One might ask, how do you know that there are some who are going to inherit the Earth, some the New Jerusalem, and some who will inherit the Heavenlies?

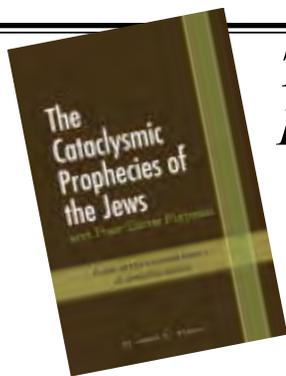
Paul says, with reference to resurrection, “*there are bodies terrestrial and there are bodies celestial*” (I Corinthians 15:40).

Without doubt there are those who are going to inherit the Earth. It could very well be that they will be animated again in the resurrection by a soulish principle, the principle of blood. They are going to be Earth bound.

Then there will be those who are celestial and could very well be animated by the spirit. It seems very clear from the Bible that there are these 3 different spheres of blessing. The meek shall inherit the Earth. There is a New Jerusalem. There are the Heavenlies.

OUR UNIQUE DYNAMIC

In Ephesians 2:7 Paul mentions “*the riches of His grace.*” We have a powerful spiritual force in what we call “grace.” God had dealt in grace in other dispensations. In fact, there has been grace in every dispensation in a certain sense; but, there has never before been what is called a *Dispensation of Grace* where grace is absolutely supreme, the great unique dynamic. This dynamic is unique because of the supreme production that comes out of it.



The Cataclysmic Prophecies of the Jews – Their Divine Purpose

by – James T. Burson

A look at the localized nature of Jewish prophecies.

“Regardless of the view you currently hold, I strongly urge you to read Jim’s book with an open mind. I can promise that, at the very least, you will be challenged by the questions it raises and encouraged by the graciousness with which it is written.” — Stephen Hill

“The best book I’ve read all year. I can absorb only a few pages at a time. He teaches such things that set the heart afire and the vision to rapture and wonder at the majesty and power of God. ... Even if you don’t buy what he says about Revelation being a local prophecy – he has so many other good insights it would be a crime to discount this book.” – Travis Penner

403 pp., PB

See order form.

That He might **create** in Himself of two, one new man so making peace (Ephesians 2:15).

For we are His workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus unto good works which God before prepared that we should walk in them (:10).

The words “create” and “created” are from the Greek word *kitzo* which means to make an original formation. It also includes the idea of proprietorship of the maker. Our creation is said to be “before the overthrow¹ of the world.” This predates the present creation.

According as He chose us in Him before the overthrow of the world for us to be holy and blameless before Him in love, having predestinated us for sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself according to the good pleasure of His will (1:4-5)

That is unique for us today. We were in God’s mind: chosen, predestinated, before this world was brought into its present existence. If one is a believer, one is an old believer – older than Adam. That is a unique thing in our position today and in our calling. Oh, what riches we have in the grace of God!

Christ’s Headship

The unique dynamic of grace brings us this supreme position and production in the new creation: the revelation of Christ’s Headship over His Body, and ultimately in Heaven and Earth. This is found only in Ephesians and Colossians, making it unique.

1. [Editor:] or “disruption.”

... Hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be **Head** over all to the church which is His Body (Ephesians 1:22-23).

... Speaking the truth in love may grow up unto Him in all things which is the **Head**, even Christ (4:15).

Christ is the **Head** of the church, He is the Savior of the Body (5:23).

He is the **Head** of the Body (Colossians 1:18).

Not holding the **Head** from which all the Body by joints and bands having nourishment, ministered and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God (2:19).

Ye are complete in Him Who is the **Head** of all principality and power (:10).

That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together [or “head up”] in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven and which are on Earth, even in Him (Ephesians 1:10).

This is part of our very unique calling. It is by the grace of God that we have this wonderful position. If everyone would see that, it would eliminate all of the denominations that we have today. There is only one Body for this Head: the ecclesia of which we are members.

Five things are spoken of the Head in Colossians 1:18-19.



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He is the Head of the Body, the ecclesia: Who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell.

- He is the Head – *kephalē*;
- He is the Beginning – *archē*;
- He is the Firstborn – *prōtotokos*;
- He has pre-eminence – *prōteuō*;
- He is the fullness – *plērōma*.

Christ's Fullness

Nothing more completely characterizes the greatness and the glory of Headship than the word *plerōma*, which means fullness, completeness and perfection.

The word occurs five times in Ephesians and Colossians:

... *the fullness of Him that filleth all in all* (Ephesians 1:23).

... *with all the fullness of God* (3:19).

... *the stature of the fullness of Christ* (4:13).

... *in Him all fullness dwells* (Colossians 1:19).

... *all the fullness of the Deity bodily* (2:9).

The Person of Christ is where all fullness resides. It inhabits, it dwells in Him, the Head.

That in the dispensation of the fullness of times,

He might head up all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in Him (Ephesians 1:10).

In this unique dynamic of grace we have not only the production of a new man in Christ Jesus, but we have the Headship of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

OUR UNIQUE DESTINY

The unique destiny that we have is connected with Ephesians 3:16, "*the riches of His glory.*" As mentioned earlier, there are three spheres of destiny.

Sphere One

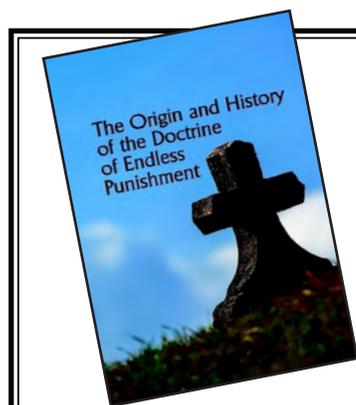
First of all, in Matthew 5:5, "*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.*" There are those who will have their inheritance upon the Earth. Reading further on in the gospel of Matthew,

When the Son of Man shall have come in His glory ... before Him shall be gathered all nations. He shall set the sheep on His right hand and the goats on His left. Then shall the King say to them on His right hand, "Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the overthrow of the world" (25:31-34).

Notice that in these passages nothing is said of Heaven.

Sphere Two

Secondly, we have some other statements. For example in the book of Hebrews,



280 pp., PB

The Origin and History of the Doctrine of Endless Punishment

by — Thomas B. Thayer (1812-1886)

This work was written for the purpose of furnishing a sketch of the argument that the doctrine of Endless Punishment is not of divine origin but instead traceable directly to a heathen source. It is not intended as an elaborate discussion of the subject but only as a presentation of the method of proof, and of the leading facts and authorities on which the argument rests.

See order form.

For he [Abraham] looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God (11:10).

Then in the next chapter,

But ye are come to Mount Sion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (12:22).

Then in Revelation 21:2,

I John saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Here is a city that is coming down from God out of Heaven and will be inherited by Abraham. We believe that this is the city of the bridal company. Those who overcome by faith, like Abraham, will inherit the New Jerusalem.

Sphere Three

Then we turn to such passages as Philippians 3:14 where Paul says,

I press toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Greek expression for "high calling" is *anō klēsis*. This word is not an adjective, but is an adverb. The same construction is found in John 8:23, "and He said to them, *ye are from beneath, I am from above [anō].*"

There are some of the redeemed who are going to inherit the Earth; some are going to walk the streets

of the New Jerusalem; and some who are seated with Christ *far above* all principalities and powers who will reign with Him in the heavenlies.

Some are going to form the Kingdom of priests upon the Earth; some will constitute the Bride of the Lamb; some will be the Body of Christ, with Christ as the Head.

Some are going to constitute the "sand" seed of Abraham; others the "star" seed; some have their calling from before the overthrow² of the world and reign with Christ in the heavenlies.

The apostle Paul tells us that "the dispensation of God which is given to me for you" constitutes the glorious fact of "Christ among you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:25-27).

Solomon declared,

The Heavens and the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain Thee (I Kings 8:27).

In other words, God is seated on top of the Heavens. Thus, Ephesians 4:10 reads,

2. [Editor:] Or, "disruption."

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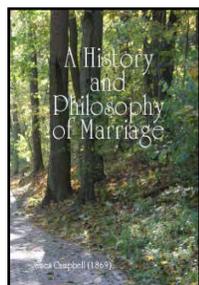
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A History and Philosophy of Marriage:

Polygamy and Monogamy Compared

by — James Campbell
(originally published in 1869)
142 pages, paperback

A reprint of the Christian Philanthropist James Campbell's classic work originally published in 1869 in Boston, Massachusetts. (see order form)

He ascended **far above** all heavens.

Therefore, if we are seated with Christ we are seated on top of the very Heavens. The Body of Christ is going to receive “*the inheritance of the saints in light*” (Colossians 1:12.) That can be translated “*the inheritance of the holiest of all in the light.*” This is that unapproachable light spoken of in I Timothy 6:16, that glorious light in which God is clothed as with a garment and in which He lives. What a residence for us as members of His Body!

Some astronomers, after peering into the Heavens with their mighty telescopes, have come to the conclusion that the universe is infinite, and it might well be. We wouldn’t be surprised if God is continually creating, that we are going to see the manifestation of His creative power in the time to come and that there will be absolutely no end to the infinitude of God’s creation. There is no reason why there cannot emanate from Him in all eternity some new creation. And I think God is going to surprise us with something new and different in our super-heavenly residence.

Moreover, with reference to our destiny there is connected with it a super-heavenly resurrection. In Philippians 3:11 we read, “*If by any means I may attain unto the out-resurrection of the dead.*” Paul is pressing toward something here that he did not have before.

What he had before was the assurance of a resurrection according to I Thessalonians 4 and I Corinthians 15, and he certainly looked forward to that; but he was pressing toward something different from the resurrection that he had under the New Covenant during the book of Acts. He was pressing toward the special resurrection that is going to take place prior to what is called “*the first resurrection.*” Paul was pressing forward to a prior resurrection.

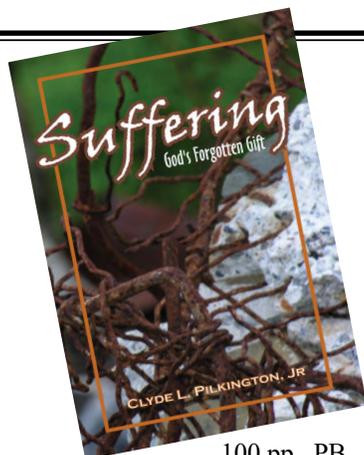
If [since] ye be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ Who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory (Colossians 3:1-4).

Let us lift our thoughts into that which sometimes seems beyond our comprehension. God has said it in His Word; faith can take care of the rest. Accept it and believe it, because God has said it. **BSN**

(abridged & edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Calling; Headship; Spheres, Three
Minor: Mystery; Pleroma



100 pp., PB

See order form.

Suffering: God’s Forgotten Gift

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

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

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

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

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

Scripture Version

ASV: American Standard Version
AV: Authorized Version
BSV: Bible Students Version
CV: Concordant Literal Version
DAR: Darby Translation
DT: Dabhar Translation
ED: Emphatic Diaglott
ERV: English Revised Version
FF: Ferrar Fenton Bible
GNT: Goodspeed New Testament
HCSB: Holman Christian Standard Bible
KJV: King James Version
MKJV: Modern King James Version
NAS: New American Standard Version
NET: New English Translation
NIV: New International Version
REB: Rotherhams Emphasized Bible
WEB: World English Bible
WNT: Williams New Testament
WT: Weymouth Translation
YLT: Youngs 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: Taylor's Greek-English Lexicon
UR: Unsearchable Riches
VED: Vines Expository Dictionary
YAC: Youngs Analytical Concordance

Reference Notations

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