



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 34
Issue 840

Bible Basics #2 The LOGOS

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Two key verses of Scripture take us back to “the beginning”

In the beginning God ... (Genesis 1:1).

In the beginning was the Word... (John 1:1).



God's Logos is His Divine-Blueprint of the ages.

Divine Wisdom never operates on a whim, but rather calculates before acting. “In the beginning...” God in wisdom calculated and laid forth His detailed pattern for the ages, thus, God was,

In John 1:1 the Greek for “word” is λόγος (logos). Logos carries the idea of plan, design, blueprint. God's Logos is His:

- Master-Plan
- Grand-Design
- Divine-Blueprint

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, “My purpose shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure” (Isaiah 46:10).

Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the ages (Acts 15:18).

Logos comes from the Greek root legō. Now there is a word with which we are familiar.

The purpose of Yahweh shall stand for the ages, the designs of His heart for generation after generation (Psalm 33:11).



Legō is defined as:

Put in order, arrange, gather; to lay forth (SEC).

Consequently, a logos is a gathering, ordering, arranging and laying forth of a design and plan. Hence, the Divine Logos carries the following meanings:

Computation, especially the Divine Expression (SEC);

Embody[ing] a conception or idea ... calculating (TGL);

The Word, as embodying the divine will (VWS).

Therefore, “in the beginning,” prior to any revelation or



execution of a plan, God had His divine strategy that

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He would unfalteringly, and with minute precision, carry forth throughout the ages – all *according to plan*.

In His *Logos* – His Divine Blueprint – He declared the end from the beginning, knowing all that He would do beforehand, “*generation after generation*.” The *Logos* is God’s design of the ages.



Hence, Scripture reveals to us that in the very beginning God laid before Himself His detailed *Logos*:

His Blueprint, His Pattern
His Design, His Plan
His Model, His Formula

The *Logos* was always before Him and He has never deviated from it.

All originates out of God, all operates through God, and ultimately all returns back to God (Romans

11:36), simply because God had a *Logos*.

Alan Burns (1884-1929) wrote,

God “made up His mind” concerning the outcome of creation. The ages are unfolding the determination of God. ... What we find in the ages is not a possibility, but a purpose. Humanity is not a divine speculation but rather one of God’s investments. 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.¹

Christ is at the very center of God’s *Logos*. He’s the Blueprint’s embodiment, its incarnation, its personification, its manifestation.

God’s *Logos* is focused on the end of the ages when He will be “*All in all*” (I Corinthians 15:28), and His plan is ultimately accomplished through Christ – God’s divine Conclusion, the full execution of His *Logos*. So, the *Logos* is God’s master purpose of the ages, and Christ is its Center. He is the Divine Blueprint’s

1. *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 11, 1920.

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 4:16);
- 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 and ascended seated position among the celestials (Romans 6; Ephesians 2:6);

– adult sonship position (Ephesians 1:5).

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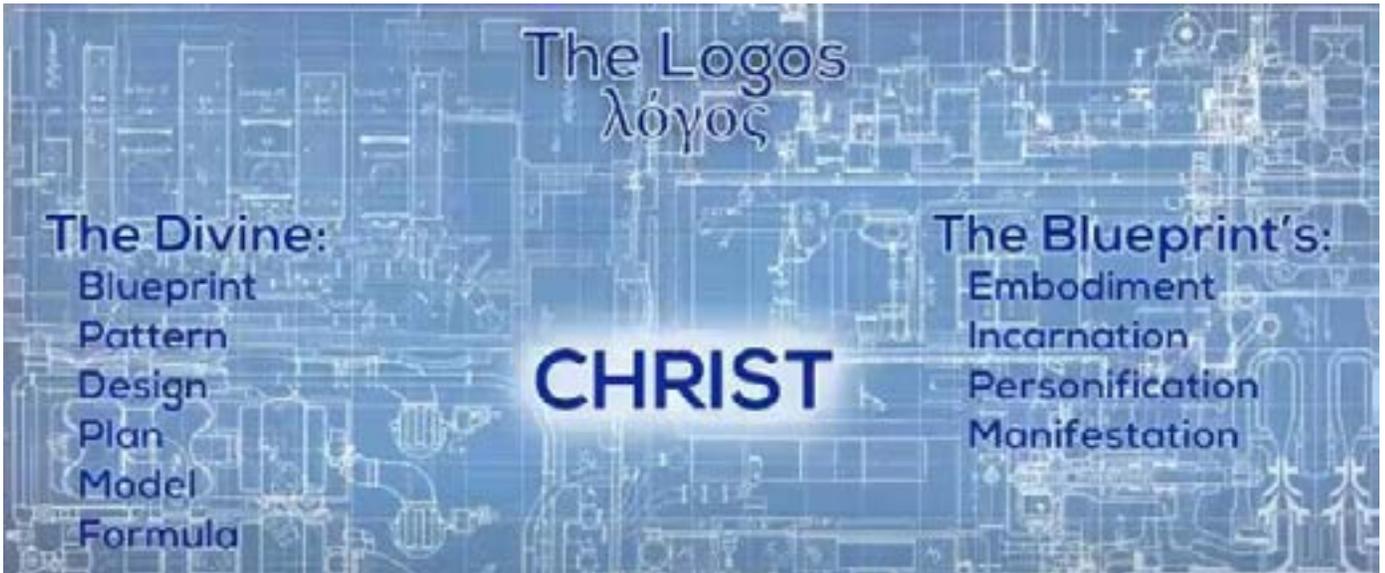
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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the order form.

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Embodiment, Incarnation
Personification, Manifestation

Christ is the Divine Prototype² after which God is building the new creation, the new humanity. This is all

*According to the **PURPOSE of the ages**, which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord (Ephesians 3:11, YLT).*

Consequently, it was that

The Logos was made flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14).

Thus, we may paraphrase John 1:1-4, 14 as follows:

2. For more on Christ, the Divine Prototype, see "Participation in Divine Life," [Bible Student's Notebook #176](#).

In the beginning was the Divine Blueprint, and God's Master-Plan lay before Him. In fact, He Himself was the Blueprint. All things came into being through this plan, and apart from this design, not even one thing came into being which came into being. God's Model contained life, and this life was the enlightenment of men. ...

*And God's Divine Pattern became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. **BSN***

NOTE: Bible Basics is a companion series to the videos by the same title. This second installment, "The Logos," can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xiHsUmB644>

TOPICS:

Major: Logos

Minor: Ages; Prototype, Christ the Divine; Sovereignty



52 pp., PB

See order form.

The Faith of Christ (A Compilation)

Here is a subject worthy of our careful consideration. It is crucial to our spiritual well-being, since it is vitally joined to our redemption and deliverance which are to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. "The faith of Jesus Christ" is unwittingly denied by sincere and well-meaning believers. After having been well-grounded in this subject as it is revealed in His Word and reflected in this study, may we no longer be found in that rapidly growing company of believers who are unenlightened because they are uninstructed. Authors include:

E.H. Clayton (1887-1972), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Adlai Loudy (1893-1984), and Frank Neil Pohorlak (1907-1988).

The Ministry of the Ecclesia

by — John H. Essex (1907-1991)

We are told that God is to have glory in the Ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all of the generations of the eons of the eons. This is not a fleeting glory but a lasting one.

In Ephesians 2:6, we are told that God,

Vivifies us together in Christ ... and rouses us together and seats us together among the Celestials, in Christ Jesus, that, in the oncoming eons [plural], He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Twice we are reminded by the apostle that “in grace are you saved,” and it is in line with this salvation in grace that God is able, first, to display in us the transcendent riches of His grace and, second, to use us to display those same riches to the rest of the universe. Let us keep these two points ever in mind as we continue.

GOOD WORKS PREPARED BY GOD

In Ephesians 2:10, Paul speaks of

good works, which God makes ready beforehand, that we should be walking in them.

Whatever these works are, they are in contrast to the kind of works mentioned in :9, which are works which we conceive as of ourselves, and which would give us room for boasting if we could achieve anything by them. No, these are works which God Himself has prepared, and, let us note that it is not suggested that we should *do* these works (which might imply that we should have some constructive part in preparing them), but rather that “*we should be walking in them.*”

One of the main themes of the Ephesian epistle is “walking,” mentioned seven times, and all in connection with conduct or deportment. In 2:1, we are told we once walked in “*offenses and sins,*” and the walk in :10 is in distinct contrast to this. When God takes us out of one condition, He places us in another in which He Himself has prepared all that is necessary to enable us to fulfill the part He has allotted for us. For He

is able to do super excessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending (3:20).

What are the “good works” which God makes ready beforehand?

Paul is telling us in the latter chapters of Ephesians, which deal with our deportment, or conduct one to



The Real Story of Jesus Christ's Birth

An in-depth biblical and historical look into the truths surrounding the birth of Jesus

by – Paul R. Pontis

For the past two millennia, religious organizations have been conflicted and confused about the actual details of the birth of Jesus. This work contains a wealth of historical and scriptural knowledge, effectively displacing commonly held traditions and legends surrounding the birth of Christ. Besides being enjoyable to read, this work is also a valuable reference guide.

156 pp., PB

See order form.

another, saying,

Let all bitterness and fury and anger and clamor and calumny be taken away from you with all malice, yet become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, dealing graciously among yourselves, according as God also, in Christ, deals graciously with you. Become, then, imitators of God, as beloved children, and be walking in love (4:10-5:1).

This is a clear definition of our conduct today. There is, however, a richer and deeper sense of the works prepared by God for us,

That we should be completed for the entire complement of God (3:19).

It is God's aim, which He will undoubtedly fulfill, to become, in fact and in acknowledgment, "Father of all" (4:6). We are already acknowledging Him as our Father, and we are grasping the truth that we should even now be exhibiting those traits of character which are agreeable to

being built together for God's dwelling place, in spirit (Ephesians 2:22).

Brother E.H. Clayton (1887-1972) once wrote (*Breadth and Length and Depth and Height*),

It is only as we exhibit that we are God's complement that we are able to exemplify the position agreeable to God making known to the sovereignties and authorities among the Celestials His multifarious wisdom. This wisdom is building a dwelling place for God such as the universe has not seen hitherto,

and of such grand proportions as are indicated by the terms before us; it is not a meager structure. The Secret Economy is producing the Ecclesia which is Christ's Body, and, as such, these sovereignties and authorities recognize us, but they also view us as an increment, integral to the whole, as a figure of what God will achieve in the eons through Christ Jesus.

What Paul is telling us in Ephesians is this: we have a pre-expectancy in Christ. We are saved in grace and have become God's achievement. We are already being built together for God's dwelling place in spirit. The sovereignties and authorities (the highest powers) among the celestials are learning, through the Ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God. As we display the fact that we are already being made a part of God's complement, so others will come to appreciate that God has allotted a place for each of them in the universal temple which He is even now in the process of building, and which will not be completed until all are reconciled to Him. In this way, God will receive glory from the Ecclesia, for, like Christ, our Lord and Head, we shall be seen to be acquiescing to the full in His aim to bring His purpose to its grand conclusion.

To quote Brother Clayton again, from the same article:

Truly we are for the outcome of God's transcendent love: the fruit of this economy, distinct as it is, is not merely for our blessing, but for God's glory in the universe.

None of God's creatures should ever imagine that he
(see ECCLESIA, last page)



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God's Will and Man's Will

by — Dr. Jack E. Jacobsen (1923-2018)

One of the difficult theological questions is, “Is man a free moral agency?” Does the sovereignty of God rule over man and his “free will”?

The Bible says in Proverbs 16:9 that,

A man's heart devises his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

In Proverbs 20:24, we read,

Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?

Then in Proverbs 21:1, we read,

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water, he turns it whithersoever He will.

Finally, the whole concept of man's will and God's will is stated in a single sentence,

The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord (Proverbs 16:33).

Thus, the old maxim: *man proposes but God disposes.*

A.P. Adams in his book, *The Spirit of the Word*, says that “the awful deeds of wicked men are ‘of God’ in such a sense that God makes them conducive to carrying out of His own plans and brings good out of them in the end.”

The heathen king, Cyrus, was God's “*anointed*” to do His Work (Isaiah 45:1). God used him as an instrument to accomplish a certain purpose, though Cyrus knew not that he was thus being used of God (Isaiah 44:28).

God used this Persian king to give a decree to let exiles return to Jerusalem, released the captives of the past 70 years to go free, and allowed the temple treasures to go back to the city of Jerusalem.

The perpetrators of the crucifixion of Christ, the most awful crime of history, are considered to be deserving of the most severe retribution. Yet they did this terrible act because the Hand of God and God's counsel had determined it to be done (Acts 4:28). Peter says that Christ was “*delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God*” (Acts 2:23). Thus, we see how even this stupendous crime was of God, and since we know that God “*works all things after the counsel of His Own will*” (Ephesians 1:11), we can say that “*all things are of God*” (II Corinthians 5:18).

To illustrate this concept we can turn to Psalm 37:23, where we read,

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

In the *King James Version* the word “*good*” is in italics indicating that the word was not in the original text. The translators placed the word “*good*” in the verse.

(see **WILL**, next page)

The Pathway of Faith

— Vladimir Gelesnoff (1877-1921)

Studies from Genesis 12-50. This writing presents the spiritual careers of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. God's dealings with these four patriarchs are rich in lessons of permanent value. With exquisite, artless simplicity they demonstrate the frailty of our frame, accentuate the gentle forbearance, and illustrate the inexhaustible grace of our heavenly Father.

See order form.

80 pp., PB

The Present Dispensation

(or, the “Administration of the Secret” – Ephesians 3:9)

by — S. Van Mierlo (1888-1962)

Translated from Dutch

When Israel was rejected, Paul received other revelations which he made known. Thereby access was opened to a third sphere of blessing: that of perfection in Christ. With this revelation of the Great Mystery, which had been hidden in all *aiōns* in God (Ephesians 3:9), Paul completed God’s written Word (Colossians 1:25).

The present dispensation is one of abundant grace; one of pure faith. Because God is “silent” now, there are no visible, public signs of His power. All of the signs of the coming Kingdom on Earth, which were still present during the Acts period, have ceased, because this Kingdom is no longer near, as a result of Israel’s rejection.

Believers who belong to the third sphere of blessing can of course meet, but God has not prescribed anything regarding a visible organization.

Those who share in the higher sphere of blessing will

WILL (continued from previous page)

Young in his translation, states this verse in this way:

From Jehovah are the steps of a man.

God uses circumstances to affect the “will” of man. A person may desire a job, but unless God opens the door for that job, the job is not his or hers. A person may desire to sell his home, but unless God wills that home to be sold, it will not be sold.

God is Supreme Ruler. All things are under His control, all things are “of Him” (Romans 11:36). How safe and secure is the trustful child of God when he or she recognizes this truth. “All things are of God,” whatever comes to him, whether for the present joyous or grievous, that person knows that it is by his Father’s appointment, and thus for his or her good. Whether it be a “blow” in life or a gift, a pain or a joy, tears or smiles, reproaches or blessings, persecutions or ben-

not have the normal abode on Earth. From the resurrection, they have a spiritual body that frees them from all material boundaries and allows them to fulfill wider assignments. So there is no difficulty in leaving everything to Israel that belongs to them, including the New Covenant and all of the visible representations of their spiritual things. **BSN**

— *Uit de Schriften*
(abridged & edited)

Van Mierlo was a student of E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913), an associate of A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967), and co-editor along with G.J. Pauptit (1889-1962) of the Dutch monthly periodical *Uit de Schriften* (*Out of the Scriptures*, 1920-1960), as well the author of several books, including *The Divine Plan and its Realization*, and co-author of *About the Mystery: Some Brief Explanations of the Great Mystery Revealed to the Apostle Paul*.

TOPICS:

Major: Administrations; Mystery
Minor: Celestials; Spheres, Three

efits, slander or praise, sickness or health, death or life, in every case, and in all it is the *will of God* and that *will* is always the expression of Father’s love, and therefore sweet, precious and good. **BSN**

— *The Concept of Circularity*
(abridged & edited)

Jacobsen was a graduate of Augsburg College (Minneapolis), Northwestern Lutheran Seminary (Minneapolis) and Citadel Baptist Theological Seminary. He also studied at Chicago Lutheran Seminary, Central School of Religion (Indianapolis) and Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne). He served as a missionary to Nigeria, and pastored Lutheran churches in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota.

Other articles by Jacobsen in past issues of the *Bible Student’s Notebook*:

- Circularity, [#539](#);
- Judgment, [#540](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Counsel, God’s; Free Will; Sovereignty
Minor: Circumstances; Cyrus; Jesus Christ

ECCLESIA (continued from page 7141)

has been created for himself. All are for God's pleasure and glory; the Ecclesia especially so. The first of the Ephesian prayers is for wisdom to enable us to perceive the nature, riches and greatness of our position in relation to our Lord and Head, "Him in Whom our lot is cast;" the second is for power to grasp the comprehensiveness of our ministry in Christ Jesus, and how God is to obtain immeasurable glory thereby. Thus, may we "be completed for the entire complement of God!"

May the God of all glory enrich our minds with an ever-growing realization of Himself, that we may be made

competent for a part of the allotment of the saints, in light (Colossians 1:11-12).

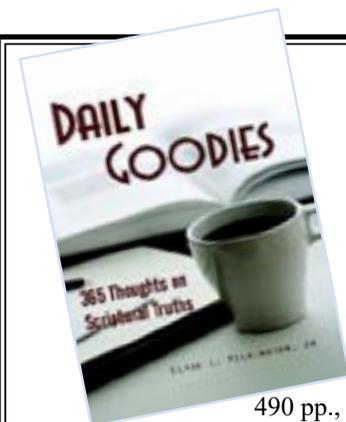
May He give us grace to appreciate something of the magnitude of the glory He is to find in the Ecclesia and in Christ Jesus, and humility to acknowledge that none of this will be of our making, but that all will be because of the greatness of the power that will be operating in us (Ephesians 1:19). **BSN**

(abridged & edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Complement; Ecclesia; Ministry

Minor: Allotment; Secret Administration; Workmanship; Works



490 pp., PB

See order form.

"Great insights." – **Canada**
"Mind boggling truths." – **PA**
"So easy to understand." – **CO**
"Provides plenty of food for thought." – **IL**

Daily Goodies

365 Thoughts on Scriptural Truths

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

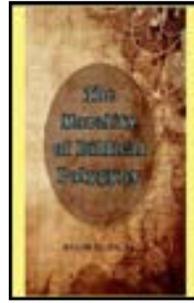
This is a great resource for personal and family study, as well as a valuable reference volume covering many varied biblical themes. This is a collection of choice selections from the author's *Daily E-mail Goodies*. These free daily e-mails began being issued in 2003 and contain studies on scriptural themes. In addition to personal use, it is great for teaching material, or family reading times.

What others are saying about **Daily Goodies**:

"A breath of fresh air." – **Australia**
"A wealth of knowledge" – **The Netherlands**
"A source of education and assurance." – **TN**

The Morality of Biblical Polygyny

by — William F. Luck, Sr.
28 pp., PB (see order form)



This is an amazing, courageous, contemporary work. William Luck is the son of Moody Bible Institute's Dr. G. Coleman Luck, Sr., Chairman of the Department of Theology, and a capable biblical scholar in his own right.

"God didn't ask me my opinion about the issue. He expected me to represent His. I've tried. If you can prove I'm mistaken, I'll be the first to thank you. But I'm not holding my breath in the meanwhile." – the Author, from the Introduction

"To date [over twenty years after its original publication], I find the arguments 'pro' quite superior to those 'con.'" – the Author, from the Conclusion

- The Background
- Laws That Imply the Moral Propriety of Polygyny
- Passages That Appear To Prohibit Polygyny
- The Association of Polygyny with Other Evils
- Alleged Prohibitions of Polygyny
- The Implications of "Adultery" in the "Vice Lists"
- Questions Concerning the Possibility of Moral Polygyny