



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 35
Issue 857

A Brief Overview of Romans 13

by — Tom L. Ballinger

1. WHO is speaking?
2. TO WHOM is the speaker speaking?
3. ABOUT WHAT is he speaking?
4. WHEN was it spoken?

These are the basic principles of Bible study. When these simple questions are applied to Romans 13:1-7, we learn:

- (1) Paul was speaking;
- (2) He was speaking to Acts Period believers;
- (3) Paul was speaking about the Divinely appointed men who were the “rulers” over the members of the Acts Period¹ “Church of God;” namely, the apostles; and,
- (4) Romans 13 was written before the Dispensational change occurred at the close of *The Acts of the Apostles*.

The “higher powers” Paul spoke about were not a reference to civil authorities. He was not speaking about kings, emperors or czars, or governors, potentates, legislatures, senates or mayors. Neither was the Apostle Paul speaking about some man-inspired



document, such as the U.S. Constitution. He was speaking about men who were God-cho- sen-anointed-ordained-installed as rulers over the Acts Period churches.² The believ- ers were to be submissive to them.

Notice what Paul wrote in I Thessalonians 5:12.

*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are **over you** in the Lord, and admonish you.*

Those who were “over” the believers were the apos- tles and elders of the churches. This is not truth for today!

We also read,

*Remember them which have the **rule over you** (Hebrews 13:7).*

Acts Period members of the churches were told,

*Obey them that have **rule over you**, and submit yourselves (Hebrews 13:17).*

1. [Editor:] For more on the period covered by the Book of Acts, see:

- The Acts Transition and the Pentecostal Dispensation, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #507](#);
- The Acts of the Apostles And Paul's Epistles: Considered Historically and Dispensationally, J.J.B. Coles, [Bible Student's Notebook #613](#);
- The Earlier and Later Chapters of the Book of Acts, Sir Robert Anderson, [Bible Student's Notebook #526](#);
- The Acts Period and the Acts Period Epistles, Tom Ballinger, [Bible Student's Notebook #604](#);
- The Dispensational Frontier of Acts 28:23-31, Charles H. Welch, parts 1-3: [Bible Student's Notebook #639](#), [#640](#), [#641](#);
- *The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line*, Otis Q. Sellers (see order form);
- *The Acts Dispensation*, Otis Q. Sellers, Parts 1-3, [Bible Student's Notebook #727](#), [728](#), [729](#).

2. [Editor:] During the Acts Administration there were many eccle- sias, in the plural – “all the ecclesias” (Romans 16:4, 16; I Corinthi- ans 7:17; 14:33; II Corinthians 8:18; 11:28, CV); while today in the Secret Administration there is but one single ecclesia, in the sin- gular – “the Ecclesia which is His Body” (Ephesians 2:22-23, CV).

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Finally, it is written in Hebrews 13:24 to

Salute all them that have rule over you.

Those who had rule over the believers during *The Acts of the Apostles* were men chosen especially by God. They were anointed by Him and exercised awesome power and authority – these men were the “higher powers” mentioned in Roman 13:1.

Read Acts 5:1-12 and you will witness the awesome power the ruler, the Apostle Peter, wielded. He pronounced the death-sentence upon Ananias, with Sapphira. Because “they lied,” they fell down dead and were carried outside and buried, “And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things” (:11). This death sentence upon the husband and wife showed that Peter did not bear the “sword” in vain (Romans 13:4).

In Romans Chapter 13, the “powers that be,” the “higher powers,” the “rulers,” and the “ministers of God” all have reference to the select men of God who were chosen to be rulers over the Acts Period churches. The One Body of the Secret Administration has no flesh-and-blood rulers. We, as members of the “high calling,” are to be submissive only to the Head of the Church, which is His Body – the Lord

Jesus Christ. To Him, alone, do we owe our allegiance. There are no intermediaries between us and Christ Jesus.

Ever since Acts 28:28 (the dispensation boundary line),³ the “powers that be” have been withdrawn. The “higher powers” ceased to exist after the close of the Acts Period. The “rulers” of the churches faded away after Acts 28:28. The “ministers of God” were no longer on the scene after Acts 28:28.

(edited)

[**Editor:**] For an expanded study of this passage see the author’s work “Higher Powers and Conventional Christian Interpretation,” [Bible Student’s Notebook #809](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Dispensational; Romans 13

Minor: Acts 28; Acts Period; Apostles

3. [**Editor:**] For more information on Acts 28, see:

- Acts 28: The Dispensational Boundary, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #550](#);
- Before and After Acts 28, Oscar Baker, [Bible Student’s Notebook #595](#);
- Acts 28: The Dispensational Crisis, Charles H. Welch, [Bible Student’s Notebook #642](#);
- [The Dispensation of the Grace of God, and Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary Line](#), Otis Q. Sellers (see order form).

- 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.”

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

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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);

Our Inclusion in the Son

by — M. Jaegle

All humans were included in Adam, and therefore are involved in the consequences of his offense. Had this been a good deed, it would have brought blessing to mankind, and all would boast of their connection with the first Adam, instead of with the Second, Christ – but that was not God's plan. It was the one act of disobedience which offended God, and which brought in death. All mankind partakes of this "gift," because all were included in Adam. All are now mortal and born as sinners, without being asked or tested, just as if they had taken part in his transgression.

Yet on this gloomy background God is painting the most glorious expectation for the creation, for He acts in the same way in relation to its inclusion in the Son. His one act on Golgotha was the exact opposite of Adam's. It was an act of obedience and love, from which blessing will flow to every creature, because all were once included in Him. The promise is unmistakably clear:

Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying. For, even as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many were constituted sinners, thus also, through the obedience of the One, the many shall be constituted just (Romans 5:18-19).

According to this divine statement the work of Christ

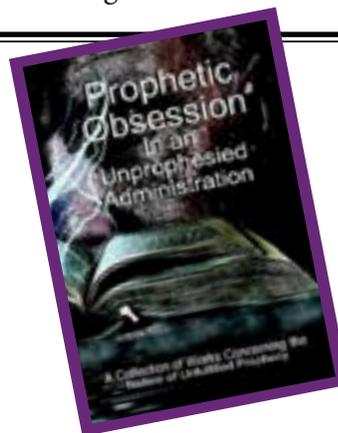
has the same universal range as that of Adam. We see that the depths of the cross of Christ are revealed only when we associate it with the inclusion of all in Him. His work has the same effect as if He had accomplished it while all was yet included in Him.

God began with His preparations and decisions concerning the consummation of His purposes before there was any creation, just as men do today, when they plan some great undertaking. All is sketched and blueprinted before a single part of the project is made. Later, when God was called upon to make provision for the future of Adam's race, He gave men no opportunity to exercise their "free" will or choose their own way. Adam sinned, and all were made sinners against their own desires. If men had "free" wills, they should at least have the same opportunity as Adam had to decide for themselves in this weighty matter and be condemned to mortality and death on the basis of their own transgression.

The failure of Adam was no disappointment for God, but rather it opened the way for the revelation of His love in Christ. Not to Adam was committed the task of securing the future of the race, but to Christ, as the Second Adam, and this by the offering of Himself as a sacrifice.

Now it is very important to emphasize the truth that the creation will gain much more through Christ than was lost through Adam. This is shown in the

(see *INCLUSION*, page 7280)



Prophetic Obsession in an Unprophesied Administration

(A Collection of Works Concerning the Nature of Unfulfilled Prophecy)

List of authors contained in this work are: Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918), Cecil J. Blay (1906-1976), A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988), Andrew Miller (1810-1883), Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992) and C.R. Stam (1909-2003).

62 pp., PB

See order form.



Reader's Question Box #57

"He Also Will Deny Us"

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us: if we believe not, yet He remains faithful: He cannot deny Himself (II Timothy 2:12-13).

Q: I was wondering if you could help me with II Timothy 2:11-13, as the concept of being disowned is not so nice. What does it mean to disown Christ and what does it mean to be disowned? Can we fall out of the Body? – D.R.

A: The context of any passage of Scripture is everything. The context of "He also will deny us," is clearly that of *suffering and reigning*. The principle of suffering and reigning is universal and is sometimes expressed as "no cross, no crown." This of course is highlighted by the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Wasn't it necessary that Christ would have suffered these things, and then to enter into His glory? (Luke 24:26).

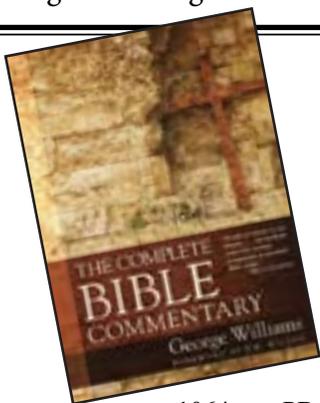
We read of "the sufferings of Christ" on the one hand, "and the glory that should follow" on the other hand (I Peter 1:11). Thus, the only pathway to glory is through suffering. The one, "glory," cannot be had

without the other, "suffering."

Christ is the suffering Savior Who is, as a result, gloriously exalted to the reigning Head of all creation.

*You have placed all things in subjection under His feet. For in that He placed all in subjection under Him, He left nothing that is not placed under Him, even though now we see not yet all things placed under Him. But we see Jesus, Who was made a little lower than the angels for the **suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor**; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it was fitting for Him, for Whom are all things, and by Whom are all things, in **bringing many sons unto glory**, to make the Pioneer of their salvation **perfect through sufferings** (Hebrews 2:8-10).*

So it is, as members of Christ's Body, we have the honored privilege of joining Him in His sufferings: we "suffer with Him,"



1064 pp., PB

See order form.

The Complete Bible Commentary

by — George Williams (1850-1928)

Originally published as The Student's Commentary on the Holy Scriptures in 1926, this volume is one of the most informative, insightful, single-volume, whole-Bible, dispensational commentaries available. It includes an introduction to each book of the Bible as well as helpful comments on the book's history and themes. Individual words and phrases throughout the text are explained with the aid of the author's extensive knowledge of Hebrew and Greek.

Williams was born in Dublin, Ireland, and ministered throughout Ireland and Europe, where his proficiency in French, German, Italian, and Spanish allowed him to preach directly to many.

"[The Book of Acts] records the offer of the Kingdom to Israel, and not, as is popularly believed, the formation of the church revealed in the epistle to the Ephesians." (Page 820)

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together** (Romans 8:17).

Of course, all of creation suffers. After all, it is Job who reminds us that,

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble (14:1).

However, to “suffer **with Him**” is to enter into the endurance of suffering *by faith*.¹

Looking off to the Inaugurator and Perfecter of faith, Jesus, Who, for the joy lying before Him, endures a cross, despising the shame, besides is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).

Consequently, Paul reminds us in II Timothy that “*if we suffer, we shall also reign with Him.*” Likewise, the opposite is true. If we deny Him this joint-suffering by faith, He too will deny us the joint-reigning: “*if we deny Him, He also will deny us.*”

Again, it is crucial here that we do not forget that the context is *suffering and reigning*, so that *if we deny Him the SUFFERING, He also will deny us the REIGNING.*

Though all children are “heirs” this does not mean that all “heirs” will “reign.” Reigning is something altogether different. Paul further makes this distinction by speaking not just of the believer’s “inheritance,” but rather of “*the reward*” that is related to that inheritance.

*And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord you shall receive **the reward** of the inheritance: for you serve the Lord Christ* (Colossians 3:23-24).

Or better yet, as the *Concordant Version* renders it,

1. For a look at Christ’s faith response to suffering see,
– *God’s Sovereignty and Christ’s Will*, (Reader’s Question Box), [Bible Student’s Notebook #850](#);
– *The Faith of Christ (A Compilation)*, see order form under “Compilations.”

You will be getting **the compensation of the enjoyment of an allotment.**

The often-overlooked jewel of II Timothy 2:12-13 is the final phrase:

If we believe not, yet He remains faithful: He cannot deny Himself.

So, what if we do not join Him in faithful (faith-filled) suffering. What if we lapse into the extreme opposite state – that of disbelief? What if we not only deny Him *this faith-filled joint-suffering*, but “*we believe not*”? Well, Paul’s most reassuring declaration is that, even in complete disbelief,

He remains faithful: He cannot deny Himself.

Consequently, regardless of our state, our standing² as a member of Christ’s Body remains unchanged, for, after all, irrespective of our unfaithfulness, “*He remains faithful*”; and although we may deny Him faithful suffering, “*He cannot deny Himself.*”

Hence, even if we are denied a “reigning” position within our allotment, our unchanging standing is that of members of His very Body. Though we may be denied reigning, we can never ourselves be denied (or “disowned”) – for to do so, He would of necessity “*deny Himself*” – to Whom we are inseparably united. **BSN**

For more information on *Suffering*, see:

- *Suffering: God’s Forgotten Gift*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. (book, see order form), also available in *Bible Student’s Notebooks #203, #204, #205, #206* under the same title;
- *The Sequel Which Sustains*, Frank Neil Pohorlak, [Bible Student’s Notebook #258](#). Also available in book form: see order form, or visit [Study Shelf](#).
- *The Aftermath of Suffering*, W.M. Evans, [Bible Student’s Notebook #650](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Denying; Faith; Inheritance; Reigning; Suffering
Minor: Ecclesia; Standing; State

2. A distinction of great importance to the believer is between that of his standing and state. It is essential that believers recognize this fundamental distinction. A proper understanding of the difference between standing and his state is a genuine step toward a proper grasp of the doctrine of our apostle, Paul, as well as a realization of our true relationship to God. For a closer consideration of this theme, see:
– “The Believer’s Standing and State,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #161](#).

The Lives of Christ

by — J.R. Miller (1840-1912)

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart (II Corinthians 3:3).

Many lives of Jesus have been written, setting forth the beauty, the grace, the wisdom, the gentleness, and the power of Him Who was the chief among ten thousand, the altogether lovely one. Paul tells us that, in every believer's life, the life of Jesus is to be written,

That the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:9).

It is these *lives of Christ*, written in men's daily lives, which are needed in the world.

How is the life of Jesus to be manifested? It is not enough merely to *talk* about Him. There are those who, with silver tongue, can speak of Jesus eloquently and winsomely, in whom it cannot be said that *His life is manifested in them*. In this sense it is not more *preaching* which is needed today – it is more *gospels in the lives of believers*.

What was the secret of the life of Christ? You have read your New Testament and have been charmed by the matchless beauty of that life which is portrayed in the gospels. His great central feature was **love** – love

full of compassion; love serving even to the humblest needs and at the greatest cost; love which was patient, forgiving, thoughtful, gentle; love unto the uttermost – which went to a cross to save sinners!

Every page reveals some new beauty in the character of Jesus and uncovers some new depth of His love, and the qualities of that blessed life are to shine in *our* life! His disposition, His spirit, His compassion, His patience, His meekness, His peace, His joy, His humility – these reappearing in us!

It is not enough – let us again and again remind ourselves – to *preach* about these gracious things in Jesus, to *talk* about them, to extol them in our hymns: **they must be manifested in our lives!** The story of Jesus must be repeated in our own dispositions and lives. **BSN**

Living Without Worry

(edited)

TOPICS:

Major: Jesus Christ; Love

Minor: Believer's Walk

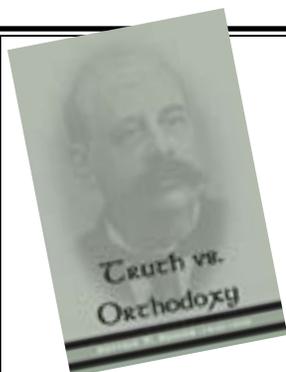
Truth vs. Orthodoxy

by – Arthur P. Adams

This is a collection of studies from the heartwarming and insightful pen of A.P. Adams (1847-1925). Chapter titles are:

Orthodoxy
The Spirit of the Word and
Theological Reversals
Free Will
What Is Man?
We See Jesus

The Man Christ Jesus
Jesus Christ the Son of God
Why Christ Died and Man's Doctrine
of Substitution
"Substitution" and the "Vicarious
Atonement"



108 pp., PB

See order form.



Tidbits of Truth #6

“Tidbits” is a column dedicated to short comments, thoughts, studies and excerpts.

Unuttered, Unceasing Prayer

[To: K.B.] The traditional concept of prayer is flawed by a very narrow religious definition. It is identified by specific religious formulas, ceremonies, rites, rituals and duties. Instead, for the believer, prayer is simply the very life of God living out through our own spirit and being, in loving union with the Father by the *communion* (II Corinthians 13:14) and *supplication* (Ephesians 6:18) of His Spirit, *continuing instant in prayer* (Romans 12:12).

For the spiritually minded believer every thought is a prayer.

Prayer is simply acknowledging, enjoying and living in the fellowship and communion of the Father’s ever-abiding presence, His very breath in our frail earthen vessels. Then, even our most endearing “intercession” is only *unspoken, unuttered groanings*, coming out of our Father’s Spirit living and breathing within us (Romans 8:26).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Lake of Fire

[To K.G.:] The term “*Lake of Fire*” appears only in the book of Revelation. Paul never once mentions it at all. It is plainly a part of Israel’s program, restricted to a very narrow timeframe within that program.

If people today were in danger of this “*Lake of Fire*” why didn’t Paul even once warn them about it? And why didn’t he instruct us to warn them? Isn’t this extremely odd?

It’s also interesting that there is no mention or warning of the “*Lake of Fire*” anywhere in the Hebrew Scriptures either. For example, isn’t it odd that God warned Adam about “death” but not the larger more

looming “second death”? And isn’t it significant that none of the prophets warned the past generations of Israel concerning this significant judgment?

There is so much confusion in Christendom that results in their failure to “*rightly divide*” or “*correctly cut*” the Word of Truth (II Timothy 2:15).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Prophecy Not Now Being Fulfilled

[*Excerpt:*] If he [Paul], to whom the truth of this present secret administration was revealed, did not know the date, how conceited must we be if we attempt to deduce it from a revelation that is not concerned with our celestial calling! After this interval is past, and Israel is once more in view, then the clock will be started again, and the prophetic dates will be literally and accurately fulfilled. But not now.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
Unsearchable Riches, Volume 50 (1959)

The Main Actor

The Lord has done this (Psalm 118:23).

God is the primary actor in life. We often profess that God is somehow generally “in charge,” but we act as if all of the outcomes depend on us.

The Scriptures insist that God is the true subject of our lives, the true force. ... So the pressure’s off. We don’t need to fret, compare, work with compulsive energy, or feed our many anxieties. God is in charge.

— Winn Collier
Our Daily Bread, October 11, 2019
(abridged & edited)

The Contrast

Sin is the masterful and critical aspect of God's creation that allows us to see and experience the backdrop – *the contrast* – which is necessary for us to enter the resurrection with amazement. When we are resurrected, it will be the sin, death, pain, misery, etc. that will help us to see His love, redemption, and

mercy for ever and ever.

— Mike Owens

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: [Unuttered, Unceasing Prayer:] Prayer; [The Contrast:] Contrasts; [Prophecy Not Now Being Fulfilled:] Prophecy, Prophetic Clock [The Lake of Fire:] The Lake of Fire [The Main Actor:] Sovereignty

INCLUSION (continued from page 7275)

guilt offering (Leviticus 6:1-5). Here we have restitution in case of any invasion of the rights of others. In reparation a fifth had to be added. So has Christ not only made good any loss, but has restored far more than the damage done by the Adversary. Even if Adam himself had also accomplished such a work it would never have brought the deep and rich blessing which Christ has obtained for all.

Since Adam's deed, apart from the will of his progeny, produced a universal result, it will never do to constrict the work of Christ by leaving it to the "free" will of man. As all were debased by mortality and sin, their will was so weakened and enslaved that it could not possibly decide for Christ by its own power.

The intervening bitter experiences of evil and sin will prepare all to value and appreciate His gifts. The knowledge of good and evil together will bring forth the precious fruit that fervent thankfulness will rise to

Him from every heart. *All in the Son of His love!* BSN

— *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 41 (1950)

(edited)

[**Editor:**] Brother Jaegle was a German associate of A.E. Knoch, contributor to the periodical *Unausforschlicher Reichtum*. See *The Writings of M. Jaegle* on the order form, under "Other Authors," or go to StudyShelf.com.

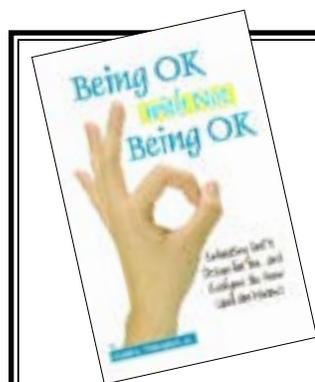
Other articles by Jaegle that have appeared in the *Bible Student's Notebook* are:

- The Difference Between Our Grace and Israel's, [Bible Student's Notebook #641](#);
- The Pre-Creation Era of the Universe: God Alone – All in God, [Bible Student's Notebook #644](#);
- The Sonship, [Bible Student's Notebook #730](#);
- Israel's Gift of Healing and the Advantage of Suffering Today, [Bible Student's Notebook #805](#);
- Unpardoned Sin, [Bible Student's Notebook #822](#);
- The Intimate Relationship of God to All, [Bible Student's Notebook #831](#).

TOPICS:

Major: Adam; Identification; Salvation of All; Union with Christ;

Minor: Consummation; Expectation; Free Will; Sovereignty



134 pp., PB

See order form.

I have read it completely three times. I always refer back to certain chapters. – FL

When I read it, it was like I could breathe again. Your calming words lead me to a greater realization. – OH

Being OK with Not Being OK – Embracing God's Design for You ... and Everyone You Know (and Don't Know)

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

For now, you're broken, and you aren't going to be "fixed." Granted, you may have some days that are better than others, some circumstances that seem to indicate that you are "OK," but the wearisome cycle simply will recur.

Thus it is by design – by divine design. Father is bringing you to a place where you are OK with not being OK, where you simply rest in His current purpose and plan in your training and development for that grand and magnificent culmination that He has so wonderfully and skillfully designed especially for you – in your next life.

Thank you for this! It brought such peace and rest to me, and brought a greater understanding of God's great love for all His creation. That He alone is in control of everything is mind boggling to say the least! – NM

So fantastic! Such peace!! – Australia