



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 37
Issue 922

The Expectation of the Present Dispensation

by — Stanislas Van Mierlo (1888-1962)
Translated from Dutch

The characteristics of our dispensation differ from those pertaining to the time when Israel had a national existence.

After the time of Acts, Paul wrote the letters to the Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians.¹ It is immediately striking that the nearness of the Kingdom and the Greek word *parousia* (“coming” or “presence”) are never mentioned again.

If the recording of I Thessalonians 4 could soon happen, and it was very important for all believers to expect that event at any moment, it is difficult to understand why Paul does not emphasize it in his final epistles if he was so much closer to that event.

Paul speaks of things that have been “*hid in God*” from all ages, of a new group of believers who form a Body that not only belongs to Christ (as in I Corinthians 12), *but of which He is the Head*. Believers from Israel as well as from the nations are part of it, there is no longer any distinc-

tion (as was still the case during the time of Acts, between Christian Jews and Christians from the Gentiles).

All now have a new position, in Christ, at God’s right hand. Here we find complete communion with Christ and therefore all spiritual blessings in Him. Those believers are no longer children, but grown men, perfect in Christ, and their lives hidden with Christ in God. It is no longer about blessings on Earth (as it was for Israel) or in the Heavens (as for the believers of whom Paul speaks during the time of Acts), but in God’s “sphere”: the super-heavenly, which, like Heaven and Earth, belongs to creation. That new Body does not replace Israel, has no earthly task, but is above all, to the praise of His Glory.

With a new group belongs a new hope. They also come to the resurrection, but it is not the same as that of the other believers. Nothing permits from I Thessalonians 4 or I Corinthians 15 to conclude that these places deal with an earlier resurrection.

In Paul’s last epistles we now find something new. This is plainly seen by the fact that he, formerly certain to participate in the resurrection (or change), now forgets (see *EXPECTATION*, page 7796)

1. [Editor:] Most who came to see the Secret Administration included Philippians with Ephesians and Colossians. It is easy to understand why they did so. Yet, rather than being a part of the Secret Administration, Philippians stood on the threshold of the grand Ephesian-Colossian writings. It was the gateway epistle to the Celestial writings of Paul. For a look at the unique nature of Philippians, see: — “Philippians: Paul’s Pivotal Letter Pressing Toward the Mystery,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student’s Notebook* #788. Ephesians and Colossians are the present truth for the current dispensation. Ephesians introduces the Secret Administration in which we live, while Colossians, its companion epistle, completes the Word of God. There are no other Secret Administration letters beyond Ephesians and Colossians. For a consideration of these post-Acts epistles of Paul, and their uniqueness in contrast with his earlier epistles, see the book: — *Ephesians and Colossians: Scripture for the Present Administration*,” Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., see [order form](#) under “Pilkington.”

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OBITUARY.

Ron Bashista (1948-2021)



It is with sadness that we report the death of a dear and precious brother, one of the gracious benefactors of our work – Ron Bashista. Founder and owner of American Models, he died on Saturday, December 4, 2021. He was 73.

American Models stepped in as a major manufacturer for S-scale model trains in 1981 after a 15-year “dry-spell” since the A.C. Gilbert company demise.

Ron loved our Lord Jesus, rejoicing in Him as the

successful Savior. Karen, his precious wife of 36 years, has found great strength of faith that has been a wellspring of comfort. Although he will be greatly missed, she has peace in knowing we will see Ron again!

“Rest well, dear brother, we will see you in the morning!”

For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified (I Corinthians 15:22).

Topics:

Major: Obituary

Minor: Pictures

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 universality of death and resurrection (I Corinthians 15:21);
- the unique gospel of Paul – which he calls “my gospel” (Romans 2:16; 16:25; II Timothy 2:8; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 13-28; Acts 20:24);
- the “preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past” (Romans 16:25);
- the epistles of the present Secret Administration being Ephesians & Colossians (Ephesians 3:2, 9; Colossians 1:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the One Body (Ephesians 4:16);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the One Body (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.”

We are always open for discussion, but never for disputation. – André Sneidar

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see the [online key](#).

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Editor's Desk

seen each other in many years, we have stayed closely in touch and rejoiced together in the ever-expanding realization of God and His truth.

Here are a few pictures from the day.

Fellowship in Meyerstown, PA

On Saturday, February 26, 2022, we enjoyed a wonderful day of study and precious fellowship in Lebanon County, PA.

Our host Steve Martin and his wife Ella Mae graciously prepared for and took care of us for the day. We met in the lobby of their son's business, Spare Time Fab. It was a perfect location.

Steve and I have known each other for a few years. He came to visit us a couple times in the past for personal fellowship and study. Steve co-labors with us as an Associate Editor of the *Bible Student's Notebook*.

My son Nathan drove us to Myerstown. We were met there by two other dear co-laborers: André Sneidar and Mark Vogt. It was great to see three of André's children (Lalana, Xavier and Danelle), as well as Mark's granddaughter (Jenni).

About half of those who attended we had never met before. It is always a joy to meet those we have corresponded with, and begin a new chapter in our journeys.

One very pleasant surprise was seeing Dwight Roach after over three decades. He had been an early member of our church in Hampton. Although we have not



The New Covenant

A Compilation

What is the New Covenant? With whom is this covenant made? Are believer's today under this covenant? This work is a compilation from four dispensational authors: C.E. McLain, J. Eustace Mills, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., and Ed Stevens.

83 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under "Compilations."





- [3 Things I Misunderstood about Christ's Sacrificial Work](#) (37:53);
- [4 Things I Misunderstood about the Rich Man & Lazarus](#) (38:28);
- [7 Things I Misunderstood about Prophecy](#) (60:22).

Clyde

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
The Pilkington Abbey
Paint, PA

The sessions from the day are on our YouTube channel [Biblical Resources](#):

- [3 Things I Misunderstood about God](#) (29:26);
- [3 Things I Misunderstood about Salvation](#) (34:34);

Topics:

Major: Editor's Desk; Fellowship; Meetings
Minor: Pictures

EXPECTATION (continued from front page)

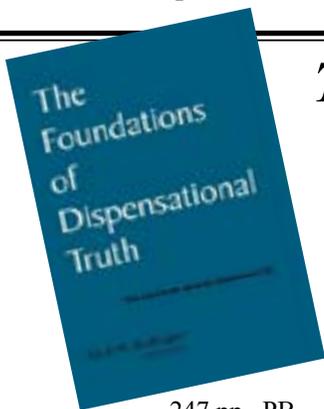
what is behind him and *presses toward the goal, the prize of the supernal calling of God* (Philippians 3:14) and thus hopes to come to the "resurrection out from among the dead" (3:11, Greek text). It is clear that this is not about the earlier "resurrection from the dead." Colossians 3:4 speaks of being *revealed* (or *appearing*)

in Glory with Christ. **BSN**

(*edited abridgement*)

TOPICS:

Major: Out-Resurrection; Secret Administration
Minor: Colossians; Ephesians; Philippians



247 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under "Bullinger."

The Foundations of Dispensational Truth

by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

Originally published in 1913, this was Bullinger's last book. It serves to help cut the tether of tradition with which Christians have been bound for so long. It does so by showing the absolute necessity of observing the great duty of "rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

This definitive work recognizes the clear distinctions between the Body of Christ and Israel. Controversial in the eyes of traditional Christianity, this extraordinary work will prove invaluable to the serious student of Scripture.



Tidbits of Truth #41

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

Acts 28:

Bullinger, Welch, Knoch, Gelesnoff, Sellers

[*Excerpt:*] Acts 28 dispensationalism is sometimes called “Bullingerism” after its leading proponent, Ethelbert William Bullinger (1837-1913). Other writers holding this position include Charles H. Welch, A.E. Knoch, Vladimir M. Gelesnoff and Otis Q. Sellers.

— G.R. Lewis
“Ultradispensationalism”
Evangelical Dictionary of Theology
Walter A. Elwell, Editor
2nd Edition, 2001, page 1225

Death:

Pagan Platonism vs. God’s Word

[*Excerpt:*] The idea that the soul is a detachable part or substance capable of existing independently of the body is an idea adopted from Greek philosophy and incorporated into Christian thought by the so-called church fathers. They started this corrupt teaching in the third century and developed it until the thirteenth century. The Reformation did nothing to clear up the mess, so today, in Reformed Theology, we find a mixture of Greek and biblical ideas, with the Greek ideas predominating. And so, for centuries, Platonic philosophy has propagated under the Christian label.

— Dan Sheridan

The Plērōma Rather than the Parousia

[*Excerpt:*] It is remarkable that it is only in these earlier Epistles written before his imprisonment at Rome, and during the course of that period covered by the Acts, that the *Parousia* is mentioned. The word *Parousia* does not once occur in Ephesians or Colossians; and the [resurrection] referred to in Philippians 3 is in connection with the “*calling on high*” and the Prize

which was connected with the great mystery of Christ and the Church. ... To His faithful and beloved servant [Paul], when in prison in Rome, God fully revealed this wondrous glory of Christ as the future head of the Universe, with the Church as His fulness (*pleroma*).

— E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)
Things To Come; February, 1913 (page 9)

Things that Differ

Philippians 1:10

Not everything in the Scriptures is the same. There are different ages, administrations, gospels, days, callings, hopes, spheres of glory, resurrections, etc. Thus, there is a great need to “... *distinguish between things that differ*” (MKJV). We must learn to make a difference where God makes a difference.

- ... *testing things that differ* (WT);
- ... *proving the things that differ* (YLT);
- ... *examine the things differing* (ED).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The Nephilim

[**To: C.J.**] As you have pointed out, E.W. Bullinger was in support of the Nephilim view (*Companion* (see **TIDBITS**, page 7799)



Dispensational Distinctions: Lessons on the Book of Genesis

by — William B. Hallman (1903-1973)

246 pages, PB (See [order form](#) under “Hallman.”)

Paul's Aspiration for Domestic Life During the Secret Administration

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Do we teach our children that, *time is short* (or, “*the era is limited*”; I Corinthians 7:29, CV),

and that they should aspire to the ideal of being unmarried, like Paul did in the prior administration?

For I want all men to be as I myself also (I Corinthians 7:7, CV).

And, if they're already married, do we encourage them, like Paul did, during his priestly ministry, that

those also having wives may be as not having them (I Corinthians 7:29, CV)?

Or, do we encourage “*younger women*,” as Paul did toward the end of the previous administration, to

marry, bear children, guide the house (I Timothy 5:14)?

PAUL'S ASPIRATION FOR CHILDREN TO HAVE A LONG LIFE

That it may be becoming well with you, and you should be a long time on the Earth (Ephesians 6:3, CV).



Again, do we teach our children that,

time is short (I Corinthians 7:29),

as Paul did in the prior administration, during his priestly ministry?

Or do we teach them that they should aspire to,

be a long time on the Earth (Ephesians 6:3, CV)

as he proclaimed in Ephesians, the truth for the Secret Administration?

THE VALUE OF DOMESTIC LIFE

During the Secret Administration being “*filled with the spirit*” (Ephesians 5:18; *i.e.*, “*filled full with spirit*,” CV) is fundamentally rooted in domestic life: in the relationships of husbands and wives (Ephesians 5:22-33), parents and children (6:1-4), and servants and masters (:5-9).¹

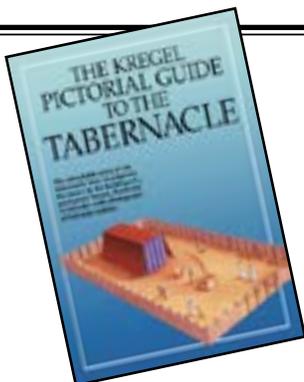
Right division matters. **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Acts 28; Domestic Life; “End Times”; Family; Prophetic Teachers; Right Division; Secret Administration

Minor: Spirit

1. And yes, in biblical times work-life was a clear aspect of domestic life.



The Kregel Pictorial Guide to the Tabernacle

by — Tim Dowley

This is a fully illustrated, four-color pictorial guide uncovering the significance, services, symbols and sacrifices of the Tabernacle.

32 glossy pages, PB

See [order form](#) under “Reference.”

“End Times” Confusion

by — Dan Sheridan

The “Great Tribulation” will test humanity. So many are under the delusion that the “end times” are at hand, which leads to that tribulation period – but that’s not the case. A test for humanity would be ridiculous today, for man has proved a failure since the days of Adam. Humanity needs no testing.



sonally present to rule from His footstool. “The Day of Christ” is followed by “the Day of the Lord.” Learn these distinctions.

The next event on God’s calendar is not a rapture, marks on hands or foreheads, or political events in America or elsewhere, but God’s manifest kingdom. The wars and rumors of war make no sense unless Jesus Christ rules before the “end times.” Rapture and end time theories have produced only fear, anxiety, confusion, and false predictions. However, God is not the God of confusion, nor has He given us a spirit of fear, for He is the God of peace. **BSN**

However, during “the Day of Christ,” when Christ rules from Heaven, the world will experience a great time of peace and prosperity under God. After many years of this government, God will test humanity to see what they learned. Many will attempt to remove God’s restraints (Psalm 2), and wars and rumors of war will once again ensue. These will have failed the test. It is then when those “end times” events will occur – swiftly. Then our Lord Jesus Christ, who had been ruling from His throne, will come and be per-

TOPICS:

Major: Date-Setting; Day of Christ; “End Times”; Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Prophetic Teachers

TIDBITS (continued from page 7797)

Bible Appendix¹ #25: The “Nephilim” of Genesis 6). Good and faithful students of Scripture have long been split on the subject of the Nephilim. For example, Vladimir Gelesnoff, early on in the *Unsearchable Riches* magazine, had a detailed series in support of the Nephilim, entitled “‘The Nephilim’: Studies in Genesis 6:1-8” (Volume 8; 1917). Years later, Knoch wrote an article in the *Unsearchable Riches* presenting the inverse view: “*The Rephaim*” and “*The Nephilim*” (Volume 22; 1931).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Bullinger’s Companion Bible

[**To: C.J.**] As for Bullinger’s *Companion Bible*,² its value is in its extensive notes. While I utilize it for these resources, I use the *Concordant*³ and other literal translations for reading the text of Scripture.

The *Companion Bible* used the *King James Version* for its translation. It is called *The Companion Bible* because its added structures, notes (both explanatory and suggestive), as well as an extensive appendix, were intended to be a *companion* to the text of Scripture. Bullinger was not content with the text of the *King James Version*, which of course is evidenced by his notes.

Originally a new translation was considered for the *Companion Bible* (*E.W. Bullinger: A Biography*,⁴ Juanita S. Carey; page 218). In fact, Knoch wrote that,

Before he started the *Companion Bible*, he [Bullinger] wrote to me saying that he had heard that I was contemplating a new version, and asked what my plans were. I sent him a page with a version in one column and notes in the other, like that in the *Companion Bible*, and begged him to make a new translation. But he considered that too great a task at his age. – *Unsearchable Riches*, Volume 36 (1945)

1. See [order form](#), under “Bibles.”

2. *Ibid.*

3. *Ibid.*

4. See [order form](#), under “Biographies.”

Knoch acknowledge that the *Companion Bible* was "in a class by itself when it comes to a knowledge of Hebrew." He wrote that, Bullinger "was one of the best friends I ever had, and I honor and love him for his works' sake" (*Unsearchable Riches*; Volume 43, 1952).

— Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

TOPICS:

Major: [Acts 28: Bullinger, Welch, Knoch, Gelesnoff, Sellers:] Acts 28; Gelesnoff, Vladimir; History; Knoch, A.E.; Sellers, Otis Q. [Death: Pagan Platonism vs. God's Word:] Death; Platonism [The Pleroma Rather than the Parousia:] Ephesians and Colossians; Parousia; Pleroma [Things that Differ:] Right Division [Nephilim:] Nephilim [Bullinger's Companion Bible:] Bullinger, E.W.; Companion Bible, The; Knoch, A.E.

BSN



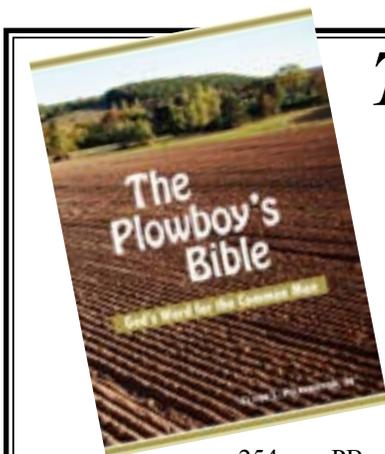
[Concerning [BSN #904](#):] The understanding of a Pre-Millennial Heavenly Kingdom that rules the Earth, prior to the presence of Christ actually on the Earth, makes much sense. If for no other reason than the amount of time it will take to put all things into place that lead into and fulfill the promises that Jehovah made to His chosen nation. Sellers seeing this in the prophetic and gospel passages that compare a time when the wheat is mixed with the tares, as opposed to when it is not, is so insightful. I never heard that before. Just wonderful understanding in which we have a position ... joint-heirs seated/functioning in the "heavenlies." ... It's all so encouraging. I appreciate your ministry! – *IN*

I just devoured [Nothing Will be Lost](#),¹ wow. Thank you. I am an ordained elder in my church. We teach that most of mankind will come to repentance in the next age. However, we also teach that some will be lost and annihilated. I knew universal salvation was true the moment I read it. I am now seeking God about how He wants me to use this knowledge. – *OK*

Today's *Daily Email Goodie*: "[Living Outside of Prophecy](#)" should be shouted from the house tops! I have a friend/neighbor believer, who keeps looking for signs of the end of this eon we are in. He follows a teacher who estimates a date for this event. ... It's difficult for me to understand the appeal for prophetic events and dates. ... Teachers who teach an "Any Moment" idea are not focusing on the glorious revealing of "Christ Jesus." Christ Jesus' revealing should be our focus since, according to Paul, we are to be revealed with Him! I told my friend we should follow Christ because He alone is our head and none other. – *OH*

BSN

1. Bulk pricing available: see on the [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."



254 pp., PB

See [order form](#) under "Clyde Pilkington."

The Plowboy's Bible *God's Word for the Common Man*

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Shocking conclusions from the man who brought you *The King James Bible Song*.

This book represents years of study and a significant change in understanding. Raised on and trained in a "King James Only" position, most of the author's teaching ministry was centered on the defense of the *KJV*. He had early associations with major proponents of this position and their followers. He actively taught classes and seminars on the subject of Bible versions. For many years he distributed thousands of books from a collection of over 100 different titles in support of the *KJV* position. Here he shares what he has come to see that has caused him to abandon completely his former position.