



# Bible Student's Notebook™

## The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume XIV  
Issue 345

## Unsearchable Riches

by — E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the **unsearchable riches** of Christ (Ephesians 3:8).*

The Greek word that is rendered “unsearchable” is *anexichniastos*, and means “untrackable,” that which cannot be explored or found by searching.

It occurs again only in Romans 11:33, where it is rendered “past finding out” (RV, “past tracing out”), and refers to the “ways” of God with respect to His dispensational dealings as to Israel, the Nations, and the Church, the Body of Christ.

The English word “unsearchable” does occur in the same verse (Romans 11:33), but it is quite a different word in the Greek. It is *anexereunetos*, and means “baffling comprehension.”

This latter word refers to what could not be understood, though we could find it out.

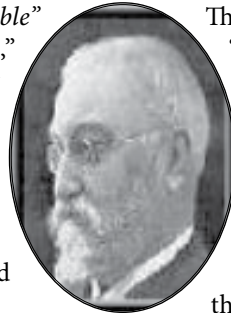
The former word refers to what cannot be tracked out, though we could understand it if found.

The teaching of Romans 11:33 is, therefore, that the “judgments” of God cannot be comprehended by us, even though we could search or track them out. While the “ways” of God in grace cannot be tracked out at all, though they could be comprehended if found.

The teaching of Ephesians 3:8 is that some of these “ways,” which were *untrackable* by man, are now made known through Paul and announced as glad tidings among the nations.

It is the Mystery (or Secret) of the Church, the Body of Christ, which was thus *untrackable* before that commission was given to the Apostle for the special purpose of making it known.

Moreover, the Greek is “The Christ.” These *untrackable riches* have to do with Christ spiritual, “The Christ,” or the glorious Head in heaven and His people, the members of His Body on earth.



This is what was *untrackable* by man, inasmuch as it was “hid in God” (Ephesians 3:9). Not hidden in the Scriptures; or hidden among men; but hidden in God, and kept secret by Him until He was pleased to reveal the wondrous Secret.

The Old Testament Scriptures clearly and manifestly revealed the “sufferings of Christ,” and they announced also “the glory that should follow”; and while the “glory” is often mentioned apart from the “sufferings,” the “sufferings” are never mentioned apart from the “glory.”

It is as though God would impress us with the certainty of the fact that those “sufferings” should not be fruitless, but should surely accomplish all of their design, and achieve all of their glorious results.

When the Lord first mentioned His “sufferings” (Matthew 16:21), He did not fail to go on to speak of the assured fact that the Son of Man should come “in His glory” (Matthew 16:27); and a Vision of the “power and coming” (II Peter 1:16-18) of that glory was immediately vouchsafed as though visibly to corroborate the blessed fact that the glory should follow the “decease” (or exodus) which was spoken of at the Transfiguration (Luke 9:31).

Peter is the one through whom the Spirit chose to speak in His Epistle of the “sufferings and the glory” of which he had been the eye-witness (see I Peter 1:6-8, 11; 3:18; 4:13, 15-16; 5:10-11); in all of which sufferings and glory are joined together in the

(see *UNSEARCHABLE*, page 3136)

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## **Bible Student's Notebook™**

*Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal*

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This free weekly electronic publication (52 times a year) is dedicated to:

- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation of God's purpose to save all mankind 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 since the world began" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the church, the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Romans 11:13);
- 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);
  - identity in His death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6);
  - adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

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## Strictly Personal

Dear Siblings,

For nearly 15 years my mother, who passed away last September, lived with us and we cared for her. Although she is now dead, awaiting her resurrection, so much of her continues to live strongly with us. She was a BIG part of our lives. We learned many things from her, and from caring for her.

It has been 8 months now since her death and we are still adjusting to her absence. It is surely the closing

of a long and important chapter of our lives.

Since her death I have greatly sensed, as it were, a page turning over to a new and unknown chapter. I have a steady expectation concerning the days that lay ahead, as Father fills the void of her presence, and the time dedicated to her, with the next stage of His wise plan in our lives. Change is in the air. These are exciting days.

My love always,

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

## He Is Never Too Busy!

by – J.R. Miller

When our Lord taught His disciples how to pray, it was thus that He said they should *begin*: “Our Father.” They were not to come to *infinite power*, or to *unknowable mystery*, or to *in-accessible light* – but to *tender fatherhood*. “Father” is the precious *gateway* that makes the approach to God easy and sure.



“Father” assures us of *divine love and care*. Does a true parent have care for his child? Much more does “our Father” in Heaven care for His children on the earth! He even cares for the *birds* – feeding them their daily food. He even cares for the *flowers* – weaving, with colorful threads, the lovely robes which they wear. *He surely cares more for His children!* “Father” assures us that we shall never be *neglected* nor *overlooked* in this great world.

“Father” also gives us assurance of *unhindered access* to the Divine presence. The *children* of a great earthly king are not kept waiting at their father’s door, as *strangers* are. Just so, God’s children have

perfect liberty in His presence. They can never come at an untimely hour. **He is never too busy** for them. In the midst of the innumerable affairs of the vast universe, He thinks of His lowliest child! Amid all of the confusion and noise of this great world, He hears and recognizes the *faintest cry* that rises from the lips of the least and lowliest of His little ones.

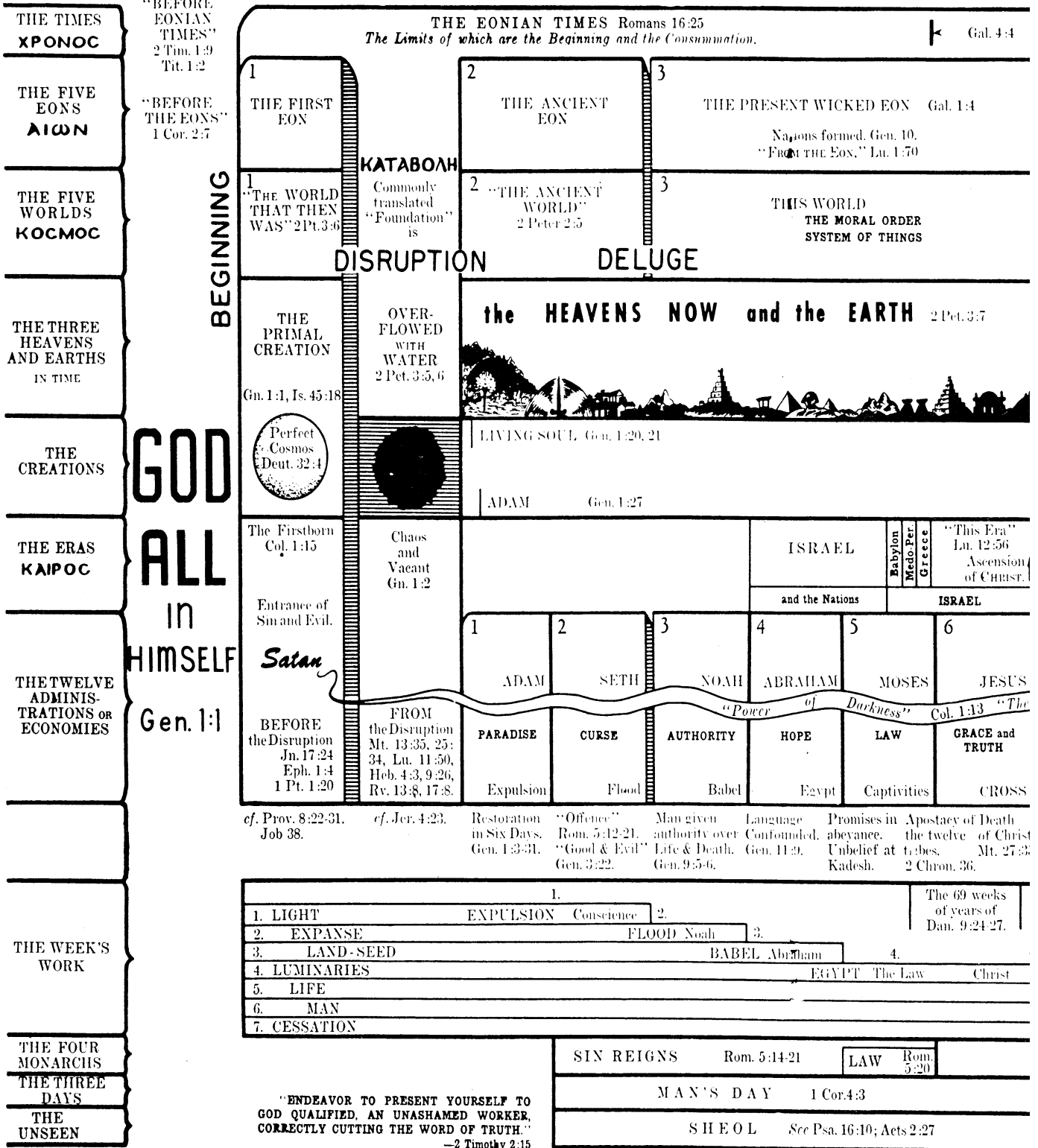
“Father” also interprets for us the *grace and mercy of our God*. **Ah! He is our Father!** We know that even an earthly father does not shut the door – even on his erring child. The *candle* is left burning in the window through the long dark nights that the *wanderer* – out in the blackness and longing to return, seeing the bright beams – may be assured of love and a waiting welcome. Infinitely more gracious is “our Father in Heaven!”

(Originally published in 1890.)

# The Divine Calendar

ALL OUT OF GOD ROM. 11:36

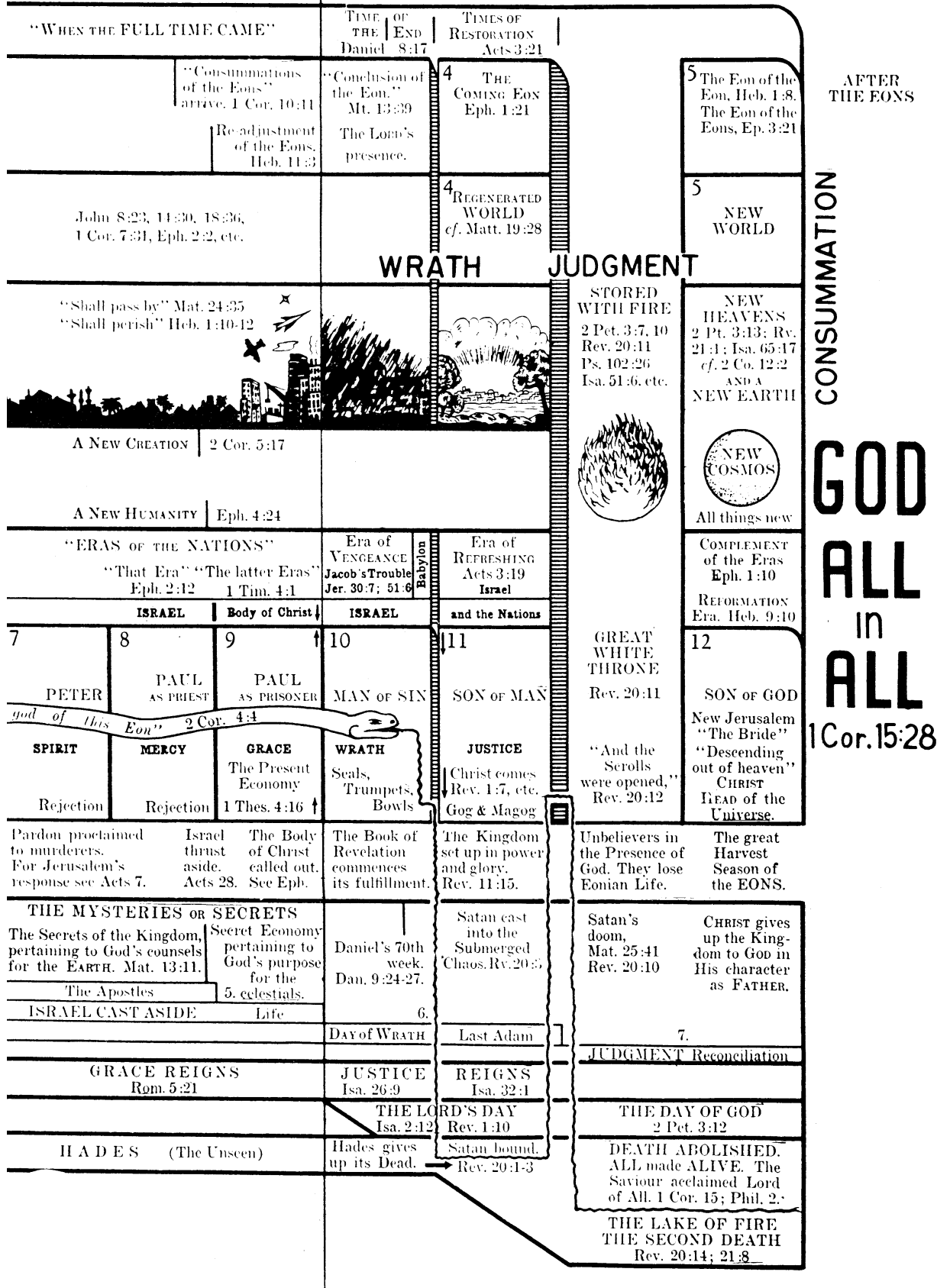
ALL THROUGH GOD ROM.



"ENDEAVOR TO PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD QUALIFIED, AN UNASHAMED WORKER, CORRECTLY CUTTING THE WORD OF TRUTH."  
-2 Timothy 2:15

11:36

ALL FOR GOD ROM. 11:36





**UNSEARCHABLE** (continued from front page)

same context and in closest connection.

Now, with regard to “the sufferings of Christ and the glory which should follow” (I Peter 1:11), there was nothing to show the prophets who foretold them, what interval, if any, should separate them. So far as the prophets were concerned, there was nothing to tell them whether the glory would follow immediately on the sufferings, or whether any time was to elapse; and, if so, how long the time was to be. Hence the Spirit tells us by Peter that the prophets who spoke of these things “enquired and searched diligently ... searching what, or what manner of time” was signified (I Peter 1:10).

They ministered concerning the grace of God manifested in the sufferings of Christ, but the riches of this grace and the riches of this glory were *untrackable*. Those riches of grace and glory belong to the Mystery. They are both spoken of in this connection in Ephesians 1. There we read of “the riches of His grace” (Ephesians 1:7); and there we read too of “the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints” (Ephesians 1:18) – all of this “to the praise of the glory of His grace wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6).

That is why the prophets *could not track out* those “riches of Christ.” They were “hid in God” (Ephesians 3:9). They were the great Secret, and had been “kept secret since the world began” (Romans 16:25), and were therefore *untrackable*.

Like two mountain ranges, one nearer, the other in the distance, their tops could be seen, but all of the beauties of the valley that lay between could not be seen. They saw the nearer range (“the sufferings of Christ”); they saw the range beyond (“the glory which should follow”); but they saw *not* the present interval, filled with the wealth – the riches – of His grace for the members of the Body of Christ, the Church which is His Body.

It is our privilege now to be able to track them out. We know, now, something of the “*manner of time*” which was signified. Over 1,800 years have passed, and we are still in that wondrous valley, though rapidly approaching the time when the hill-tops of the further range will be resplendent with the riches of His glory.

Not until the sufferings of Christ were over; not until He was rejected, and the offer of the Kingdom spurned by the nation; not until then was the secret revealed; not until then could the Apostle write

*Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the **untrackable** riches of the Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the Mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God* (Ephesians 3:8-9).

Now, the Mystery is preached; now, the great Secret is revealed; now, we may explore the wonders of the valley that lies between the sufferings and the glory. Now, we may explore its mines of wealth; now, we may track out its riches, and enjoy its beauties, and the fellowship of the saints.

These riches of grace and glory were *never* scanned by the *prophetic eye*. They are now thrown open to our gaze.

May we realize more deeply our wondrous privileges; count up the riches which are ours in Christ; and occupy our hearts with Him and with them, rather than with our own poor walk, with all of its failures and infirmities.

*Things to Come*

Vol. VIII, No. 6; December, 1901



The  
Foundations  
of  
Dispensational  
Truth

The Lord hath spoken (Malachi 1:2)

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by – E.W. Bullinger (1837-1913)

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# No Trial Strange

by — James Smith (1802-1862)

*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing had happened unto you (I Peter 4:12).*

**T**he trials of God's people are often fiery – they penetrate to the very soul. They are exceedingly *severe*, and appear enough to *overwhelm* them – but they are still “*beloved*.” God *loves* them, and therefore He *tries* them. To be thus “*beloved by God*” is enough to make one sing, even in the furnace.



will land in a wealthy place. Endless happiness is your *portion* – though not at present in your possession. Affliction is the *family lot* of all of the Lord's children. Your fears are unnecessary, your doubts are groundless.

Your trials have come to you – just as God has purposed – and must produce the *effect* which God intends.

We often think that none are tried exactly, or so *severely* as we are; but this is a mistake. We have but little idea of the *numbers* which are suffering, or the *extent* of their sufferings. The same afflictions are fulfilled in our brethren who are in the world. Beloved sufferer, all of your sufferings flow from your divine Father's love and tender mercy. They are to *try* you – but not to *destroy* you. They are to make you *better* – to fit you for your glorious inheritance.

The fire may *refine* you – but it shall not *consume* you. It may put you to *pain* – but you shall not be put to *shame*. You may pass through *fire* and through *water* – but you

Believer, let nothing persuade you that your trouble is singular or unusual. Cast your burden on the Lord and He will sustain you. Look unto Him and be saved. All of the love in God's heart is set upon you! Everything is at work for you!

*All things are for your sake, that the abundant grace might, through the thanksgivings of many, redound to the glory of God (II Corinthians 4:15).*

(Originally published in 1842.)

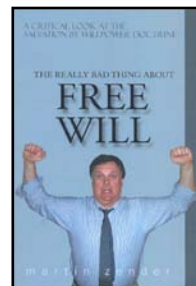
## SCIENCE (continued from back page)

The opposition to the Bible comes only from a class whose utterances Paul has justly characterized as “*profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely so called.*”

These differences between *science* and *Scripture* cannot be settled, because science is not settled. Science will never be settled, so long as there is an undiscovered fact in nature or an inquiring mind in man!

*Forever, O LORD, Your Word is settled in Heaven! (Psalm 119:89).*

*The grass withers and the flowers fade – but the Word of our God stands forever! (Isaiah 40:8).*



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# Modern Science and the Bible Do NOT Agree!

by — William Bacon Stevens (1815-1887)

What if science, as at *present* understood, and the Bible, do not agree? Shall we be troubled or threatened? I think not.

I rejoice to know that what is termed *modern science* and the Bible do not agree. I would be sorry if they did! Modern science is changeable; the Bible is unchangeable!

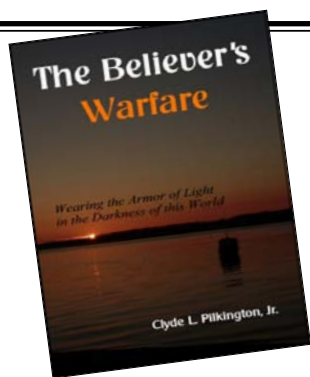
The science of *today* is not the science of last year, and will not be the science of the next year. Mark the *changes* which have taken place along the whole line of *sciences* since the beginning of this nineteenth century. What a catastrophe then would it have been had it been proved that the Bible and science as known at the *beginning* of this century, fully agreed; that all of the assertions of the Bible could be squared with the facts of science as *then* understood! The great tidal waves of science which have rolled over the world since would have left the Bible stranded and ruined!

Just so now – could it be made clear *today* that every truth in the Bible accords with the received theories of science – what would become of the Bible fifty years from now, when science will have moved on with even more rapid strides, and left behind more wrecks of theories and more stranded speculations?

In the meanwhile, the Bible stands still in the solitary grandeur of its own perfection. It waits, as the ages roll on, for confirmation and acceptance. It was said by one of old, “God is patient, because He is eternal;” and the Bible, as the book of the God of truth, has this attribute of its divine Author.

The Bible’s strength *sits still*. It does not go out hastily to meet a *half-formed science* and embrace it as an ally – lest it should turn into a foe. It calmly waits in the consciousness of its own truth as the advances of science come nearer and nearer; and every advance of *true science* does bring it nearer to the Bible.

(see *SCIENCE*, previous page)



## The Believer's Warfare

by – Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

The believer is in the middle of an ancient spiritual warfare that is as old as mankind. The battle itself, although intense, is not complicated. It is not a process of spiritual hoop-jumping. Indeed it is simple. The Believer's Warfare surveys a few key passages of Scripture to reveal God's sure plan of victory in the life of His saints.

84 pp., PB.

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