



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 26
Issue 638

The Life of Jesus IN Us

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

**The Life of Christ – The Body of Christ – The Spirit of Christ
The Love of Christ – The Mind of Christ – The Word of Christ**

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:10-11).

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Most often when we think of *the life of Christ* we are rightfully drawn back to a period spanning over three decades, two millennia ago. However, to limit ourselves to such a narrow span of time would be to miss the larger aspect of Christ's life.

While our Lord Jesus Christ's birth, life, crucifixion, death and burial are certainly the pivotal point of human history, they were followed by His glorious resurrection to immortality. What this means is that His life continues.

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Believers today are the earthly members of a Body to which Christ is the Head. We've been called as receptacles and channels of the very life of Christ. This is what it means to be His Body.

What does the life of Christ look like? What is at its very core? The answer is found in a single word: SACRIFICE!



CHRIST EMBODIED SACRIFICIAL LOVE

Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and has given Himself for us an offering¹ and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma (Ephesians 5:2).

Our lives together are not *agenda* driven, they're not *doctrine* driven, but rather they are *life* driven. They are driven by the very life of Christ, but in reality they are *death* driven first.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might be rich (II Corinthians 8:9).

1. *I.e.*, "an approach present" (Concordant), see also:
– **Article:** *The Approach Present*, Clyde L Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #436](#);
– **Video:** *The Approach Present*, Clyde L Pilkington, Jr., [Study Shelf Videos](#).

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True life is to be found in sacrificial death. Christ Himself declared:

If a kernel of grain, falling into the earth, should not be dying, it is remaining alone, yet if it should be dying, it is bringing forth much fruit (John 12:24).

The Son of God's love would have "remained alone," rather than "leading **many sons** into glory" (Hebrews 2:10), had he not died "bringing forth much fruit." His sacrificed life and riches became our own life and riches. Thus, the principle: the death of the seed is "yielding fruit after his kind" (Genesis 1:11-12). So, it is for us, as Christ's life continues to offer its sacrifice through us.

An example of the "approach present" life of Christ can be seen living in the spirit-filled husband:


Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:25).²

THE FRUIT OF CHRIST'S SPIRIT

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23).

The fruit of the spirit is the life of Christ, since God's spirit testifies of Christ (John 15:26). This fruit is not a reality by achievement or mimicking, but rather it is the very character of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself manifest in and through the believer.

2. Thus, as with Christ, if a man does not want to "remain alone" then he, too, must die a sacrificial death ("an approach present") "bringing forth much fruit," "yielding fruit after his kind."

	<p>Companion Bible New Testament (Enlarged Type) Notes by E.W. Bullinger 624 pages, PB (See order form.) This is only the New Testament without the Appendixes.</p>
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Looking at the lives of, and observing the thrust of many, one might be led to believe that the fruit of the spirit is actually an entirely different cluster.

We might assume, for example, that the fruit of the spirit is ... evangelism, prayer, tithing, consecration, holiness, worship, bible study, ordinances, tongues, miracles, and the like. Of course such a list would be different based on the particular division of Christendom one would observe.

Even as vital as doctrine is to the believer, it is important to note that there is nothing "doctrinal" in this cluster of fruit. Though surely there is a glorious doctrine behind each of the rich facets of God's fruit in our lives, this is a living cluster of divine attributes – the true measure of spirituality.

Often what men and organizations deem "spiritual" and thus paramount lies completely outside of the fruit of God's spirit. Religious systems seek to elevate their own *distinctions* – that "something" that sets them *apart*. However, is it our true aim, though, to be set *apart* from other believers? It would be good to ask ourselves if all such emphasis is a part of the solution, or a part of the problem.

THE LOVE OF CHRIST

At the heart of the spirit's fruit is "love:"

The fruit of the Spirit is love...

This spiritual cluster of fruit has as its preeminent quality love.³ This love is not self-generated. Its source is divine, for "God is love" (I John 4:8, 16), and this "God of love" (II Corinthians 13:11), through the "Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13), "so loves the world" (John 3:16). God's love in and through Christ is vast (Ephesians 2:4), inseparable (Romans 8:39) and unfailing (I Corinthians 13:8). It is as sure and lasting as is its source.

3. See also:

- *The Greatest of These is Love*, various authors, Part 1 – *Bible Student's Notebook* #131; Part 2 – #147;
- *Life's Most Important Thing*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #299](#);
- *Love is the Greatest*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #291](#), or see, [Daily Goodies](#), February 7, same title (book, see order form).

This “love of God” flows to and through His beloved Son (Matthew 3:17), becoming “the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:19), and is thus “poured out” in our own hearts (Romans 5:5). Consequently, His love then “flows out” of us toward others around us (II Corinthians 8:7).

Love is the bond, or tie, of maturity (Colossians 3:14), and while mere knowledge alone “puffs up” in arrogance and pride, love “builds up” in meekness and humility (I Corinthians 8:1; Ephesians 4:16). Without such love – we have and are nothing (I Corinthians 13:2-3).

Love is inseparable from sacrifice. The love of Christ is constraining us by the fact that He “died for the sake of all” (II Corinthians 5:14). Such sacrifice is the very root of love. The Son of God loves us and gives Himself up for us as an “approach present” (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:2, 25). It is this sacrificial love of Christ that fills us with the very fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19).

FAITH AND HOPE’S SUPERIOR

Now abides faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love (I Corinthians 13:13).

As essential to the believer’s life as faith and hope are, there is something which is their abounding superior: *love*. Both faith and hope are temporary, belonging only to the ages, for,

Hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees, why does he yet hope for it? (Romans 8:24).

However, on the other hand love is the very foundation of not only this age, but beyond all ages.

Faith, expectation and love are the abiding trinity in this administration of God’s grace. Neither faith nor expectation will remain in the glory. Love alone will abide His coming. Let us believe God. Let us glory in expectation, but, above all, let us charge our hearts to love Him and His with a fervency which His love alone can inspire.⁴

4. *Concordant Commentary on the New Testament*, A.E. Knoch, (I Corinthians 13:13).

The greatest of these is love (I Corinthians 13:13).

THE MIND OF CHRIST

Read carefully as Paul describes for us the mind of Christ.

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfill you my joy, that you be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:1-8).

The mind of Christ is one of humble sacrifice. According to the context, to be likeminded with Christ is where “nothing is done through strife or vainglory,” but rather where, “in lowliness of mind each esteem others better than themselves.”

This is a divine place where we’re not looking out merely for our own interests, but for the interests of others as well; a Christ place, where we’re not concerned with our reputation, but with being a humble servant: not in being served, but in serving. ▶



The Bible or the Church?

by — Sir Robert Anderson
(1841-1918)

206 pages, PB (*See order form.*)

This is Anderson’s revision and enlargement of *The Buddha of Christendom*. Both volumes contain material not in the other. Anderson was a close friend and associate of E.W. Bullinger.

BEING SPIRIT-FILLED

In Ephesians chapter 5 Paul shows us exactly what being spirit-filled looks like. Here again it is not what we might expect. It's not about "doctrine," "religious activities," or the "miraculous." Being spirit-filled looks like the life of Christ living sacrificially in us!

Paul's injunction to "*be filled with the spirit*" (5:18) is, in Ephesians, the pinnacle of Paul's revelation, where domestic life now takes a paramount place in spirituality.

In Ephesians 5:17-6:9 Paul plainly lays forth what it means to be filled with God's spirit.

- It enables us, from melodious hearts, to be an encouragement to ourselves and others (5:19);
- It enables us to be thankful always for all things (:20);
- It enables wives to be better wives (:22-24, 33);
- It enables husbands to be better husbands (:25-33);
- It enables children to be better children (6:1-3);
- It enables fathers to be better fathers (:4);
- It enables servants to be better servants (:5-8);
- It enables masters to be better masters (:9).

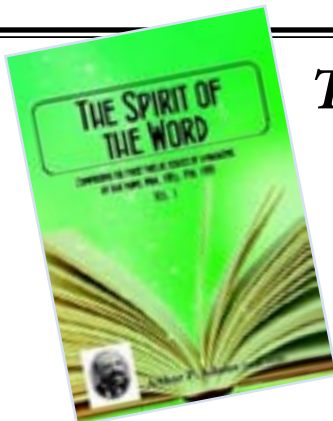
Religion has its own list of what are the effects of a spirit-filled life, but here Paul lets us see *exactly* what spiritual life looks like in our day.

Life matters. The details of life matter. The details of life are strategically designed by God to have meaning and purpose.

THE WORD OF CHRIST

When we take a bit of time to compare Paul's Ephesians and Colossians epistles, we can't help but see their striking parallel. They are in many ways mirrors of each other, with Ephesians being the expanded version and Colossians being the condensed one. Note the following parallels:

EPHESIANS 5	COLOSSIANS 3
One Anothering <i>speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord (:19)</i>	One Anothering <i>teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (:16).</i>
Thanksgiving <i>giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (:20)</i>	Thanksgiving <i>giving thanks to God and the Father by Him (:17)</i>
Wives <i>wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord (:22)</i>	Wives <i>wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord (:18)</i>
Husbands <i>husbands, love your wives (:25)</i>	Husbands <i>husbands, love your wives (:19)</i>



The Spirit of the Word: Volume 1, Issues 1-12

by — Arthur P. Adams (1847-1920)

The original periodical format necessitated that some articles started in one issue and continued in another. In this edition, for the ease of the reader, these articles have been merged together for continued flow. This is the original work from which many of Adam's other works were taken.

308 pp., PB

See order form.

Children	Children
<i>children, obey your parents in the Lord (6:1)</i>	<i>children, obey your parents in all things (:20)</i>
Fathers	Fathers
<i>fathers, provoke not your children to wrath (6:4)</i>	<i>fathers, provoke not your children to anger (:21)</i>
Servants	Servants
<i>servants, be obedient to them that are your masters (6:5)</i>	<i>servants, obey in all things your masters (:22)</i>
Masters	Masters
<i>masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him (6:9)</i>	<i>masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven (4:1)</i>

in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:2).

THE LOGOS

When we are “filled with the spirit” we are thus filled with the “Word of Christ,” i.e., the λόγος (*logos*)⁶ of Christ.” To be “filled with the spirit” and to be filled with the “Word of Christ” are synonymous.

Logos carries the meaning of “the Divine expression,”⁷ “embodying the Divine will.”⁸ Accordingly, Christ is the embodiment of God’s *logos*: “The Logos was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). He was “the Divine expression,”⁹ “embodying the Divine will.”

Today, as Christ’s Body, we are the em-Body-ment of Christ’s *logos*. Christ is the divine prototype (i.e., “God’s Creative Original” – Revelation 3:14, Concordant), after which we “are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (II Corinthians 3:18). God has destined us to be the “complement¹⁰ of the Christ” (Ephesians 4:13, Concordant).

THE PLEROMA

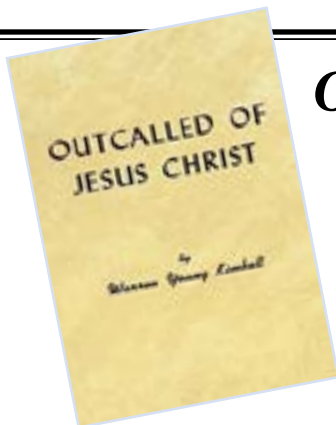
The Greek word used to translate “complement” is πλήρωμα (*plērōma*), meaning “that which fills, complement” (*Liddell-Scott-Jones Greek-English Lexicon*), “fullness, abundance” (*Thayer*). ▶

Take note in each epistle as to what Paul attributes these results. They are preceded in Ephesians by this phrase, “be filled with the spirit” (5:18). They are preceded in Colossians by this phrase: “let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (3:16).

By comparing Scripture with Scripture we recognize something remarkable: to be “be filled with the spirit” has the exact same results as to “let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.” The spirit that we are being filled with is indeed “the spirit of Christ,”⁵ since the *spirit testifies of Christ* (John 15:26). This is the “spirit of life

5. A term used by both Paul (Romans 8:9) and Peter (I Peter 1:11).

6. For a short study of *logos* see:
 - *The Logos*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student’s Notebook #574](#).
7. *Lexicon of the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*.
8. *Vincent Word Studies*.
9. *Lexicon of the Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance*.
10. For more information about the complement, see:
 - *The Complement Which Completes*, Frank Neil Pohorlak, [Bible Student’s Notebook #455](#).



Outcalled of Jesus Christ

by — Warren Young Kimball (1909-2002)

Kimball, a prolific author, was an associate of A.E. Knoch and director of the Eonian Evangel Foundation. This work contains 44 Scripture lessons concerning the Ecclesia, commonly termed “Church,” which is the “Body of Christ.”

188 pp., PB

See order form.

The meaning of the English word *complement* (not to be confused with compliment) is,

fullness; completion; whence, perfection. — Noah Webster, *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828).

Plērōma is thus translated in Ephesians 4:13 as:

- “*the fullness of the Christ*” (Young);
- “*the complement of the Christ*” (Concordant);
- “*the perfection of the Christ*” (20th Century)
- “*the completion of the Christ*” (Dabhar)

As Eve was Adam’s “*complement*” (Genesis 2:18, *Concordant*), coming out of him and then brought back to him to complete him, so Christ is the “*complement*” of God (Colossians 2:9, *Concordant*), coming out of Him (John 16:28) and back to Him (I Corinthians 15:28).

In Christ “*the entire complement of the Deity is dwelling bodily*” (Colossians 2:9, *Concordant*). Christ was God’s Image, God’s life dwelling in and through Him. The life of Christ was and is the life of God manifest.

We being members of Christ’s Body are “*the complement of the Christ*” (Ephesians 4:13, *Concordant*), and thus as Head and Body together, we form “*the entire complement of God*” (Ephesians 3:19, *Concordant*), “*the complement of the One completing the All in all*” (Ephesians 1:23, *Concordant*).

Christ came out from His Father (John 16:28), thus He and His Father are one (10:30), though His Father was greater than He (14:28). He could do nothing of Himself (5:30): all He could do is what He saw His Father do (5:19). He spoke the things that His Father taught Him (8:28). He left the world and went back to His Father (16:28). Christ was the life of God

manifest to humanity.

We are the Body of Christ and thus in living union, one with Christ. Outside of Him we can’t do anything ourselves. One day we will leave this world and go to our appearing Head in the celestials. We are the life of Christ manifest to humanity.

Don’t attempt to limit *the life of Christ* to some far off period of history. Don’t limit it to such a narrow span that we miss the larger aspect of Christ’s life.

Undoubtedly our Lord Jesus Christ’s birth, life, crucifixion, death and burial are beyond question the pivotal point of human history, but His glorious sacrificial life continues.

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, THAT the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, THAT the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh (II Corinthians 4:10-11).


Thus we, like Paul, are *filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ* (Colossians 1:24).¹¹



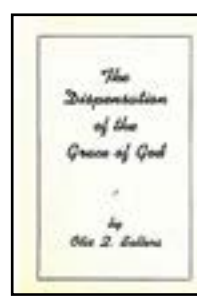
TOPICS:

Major: Body of Christ; Fruit of the Spirit; Holy Spirit; Jesus Christ; Spirit of Christ
Minor: Life; Logos; Love; Sacrifice

¹¹ “*Filling up the things that lack of the tribulations of the Christ*” (Rotherham);
 “*filling up in my flesh, in His stead, the deficiencies of the afflictions of Christ*” (Concordant).



The Image and Likeness of God
 by — Melvin E. Johnson (1897-1979)
 230 pages, PB (See order form.)
 Concordant teacher who, along with Cecil Blay, was editor of *Treasure of Truth*.



The Dispensation of the Grace of God & Acts 28:28 – A Dispensational Boundary
 by — Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)
 60 pages, PB (See order form.)
 Two works published in one volume.

Grasping Perfect Grace

by — J.G. M'Vicker (1826-1900)

Ye are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14).

All your inward searching after faith, and your groaning over your own deficiencies, arises from your not yet grasping perfect grace,¹ in all its extent and in all its glorious freeness. In yourself you are altogether without strength. God expects nothing, nothing, NOTHING of you.² Don't break your heart that you cannot find what is not there, and cannot render to Him



what He does not ask; He gives everything.

When you find any defect, any fault, any inability, it is only what you ought to have expected, and your surprise and disappointment are only pride. Live by your dear Father's gifts and care. He is your salvation. He asks nothing; He gives everything. He gave Christ for your sins; He gives Christ as your life. Be as free and as happy, and without any sort of care, as He wants you to be. Cast all your burden on Him; all your care; all your way with all its variety and need; ALL, ALL, on Him. ■

Excerpt from:

Selected Letters with Brief Memoir of J.G. (John Galway) M'Vicker

TOPICS:

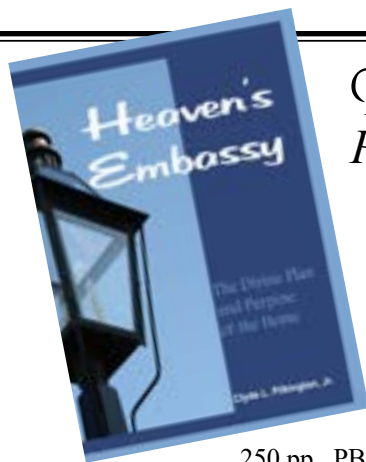
Major: Grace; Identification

1. [Editor:] For more information on grace, see:

- The Nature of Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #274](#); or see *Daily Goodies*, January 18, same title (book; see order form);
- Divine Justice and Grace, Steve McVey, [Bible Student's Notebook #290](#);
- God will Judge in Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook #505](#);
- Reigning in Life: The Present Effect of Super-Abundant Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student's Notebook #75*.

2. [Editor:] For more information on grace, see:

- *God's Will: His Grace Does it All*, Steve McVey, *Bible Student's Notebook #107*;
- *The Divine Reckoning – Select Readings on Identification in Christ*, *Bible Student's Notebooks #115, #140, #159, #180*.



250 pp., PB

See order form.

Heaven's Embassy – The Divine Plan and Purpose of the Home

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it (Psalm 127:1).

This book represents many years of work. The author believes that it is one of the most important books that he will ever be privileged to write, simply because it concerns one of the most vital scriptural subjects that could ever be addressed.

The home is central to all of God's dealings with man throughout the course of time. It is His Divine "institution" and "organization" on the earth; for the believer, it is the *Embassy of Heaven*. An embassy is "**the residence or office of an ambassador.**" Since the believer is an ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Corinthians 5:14-21), his home is thus the *Divine Embassy* of heavenly ministry.

Pauline ministry is centered in the homes of believers. This is even the true sphere of the Body of Christ; for this reason our apostle speaks of "*church in thy house.*" This book doesn't focus on the *external* specifics of the ministry of *Heaven's Embassy* (such as *hospitality*); that will be saved for another volume. Instead, it looks at the inner-workings of the *Embassy* itself, focusing on its very nature, *internal* purpose and function.

Establishing Saints in Grace

by — J.G. M'Vicker (1826-1900)

I am trying with God's help to establish¹ saints more in grace. I find only a very few rejoicing in the Lord as they might be. Most seem to believe they start out at first by grace, as a pure unmerited gift from God, but that, after that, they are expected to go on well by themselves, and when they fail to do so, they get legal, miserable and discouraged. They get out of heart, give way to wrong things, and have no strength to attempt right things. It is only in grace² that they catch glimpses of their Father's face.

1. [Editor:] For more information of *Identification* (i.e., "Positional Truths") see:

- *Stablished – Strengthened – Settled*, E.W. Bullinger, *Bible Student's Notebook* #96, also available as a separate article [online](#);
- *The Believer's Standing and State*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student's Notebook* #161, also available as a separate article [online](#);
- *I Am! Who and What God Says I Am!: The Divine Reckoning of the Renewed Mind*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (book, see order form), also in *Bible Student's Notebooks* #259, #260, #261, #262, #263 as a 5-part study with the same title;
- *Being Ok with Not Being OK: Embracing God's Design for You*, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., (book, see order form).

2. [Editor:] For more information on grace, see:

- The Nature of Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook](#) #274; or see *Daily Goodies*, January 18, same title (book, see order form);
- Divine Justice and Grace, Steve McVey, [Bible Student's Notebook](#) #290;

Yet, if they would only in their hearts believe it, they are in Christ all the time; never under condemnation;³ always under grace; always loved with the same love as Christ. God intends us to have Christ for our life, now, practically, just as much as for our righteousness before the throne. There is no service ... required of us for which He does not give us ample strength in Himself. How is it that saints go on groaning over their own few bad pennies, instead of rejoicing in the unsearchable riches they have in Christ? ■

Excerpt from:

Selected Letters with Brief Memoir of J.G. (John Galway) M'Vicker

TOPICS:

Major: Grace; Identification; Standing and State

Minor: Justification

- God will Judge in Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook](#) #505;
 - Reigning in Life: The Present Effect of Super-Abundant Grace, Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., *Bible Student's Notebook* #75.
3. [Editor:] For a look into the subject of judgment, see:
- *Judgment: Its Nature and Purpose*, A.P. Adams, [Bible Student's Notebook](#) #388;
 - *Father's Judgments Are Remedial* (Kolasis: A Word Study), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., [Bible Student's Notebook](#) #308.

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 26, No. 638 – August 14, 2017

Scripture education in a semi-weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- 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 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 in ages past" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 1:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:

- total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);
- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication. 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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