



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

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

Volume 321
Issue 777

*The Salvation of All*¹

Select Readings on Universal Reconciliation

Part 5²

CREATION COMES FROM CHAOS

Pain does not have the final say. It ain't over 'til it's over. ... The darkness does not, in the end, overcome the light. Life is stronger than death. The mess is blessed. Love wins. Creation comes from chaos.

— Patricia Livingston
Bless this Mess

DARING TO CHALLENGE “ETERNAL LIFE”

Hebrew and Greek scholars know that there is no word in the Bible corresponding to our “eternal,” which, as commonly used among us, means unending. Most theologians know this too, but they don't teach it. Only one who is willing to stand for truth for truth's sake and is willing to be branded a fanatic would dare to challenge the translation “eternal life.”

— Dr. Loyal F. Hurley (1886-1967)
Eternal Life

THE TRUE MEANING OF JUDGMENT

“Punishment” is a word I have come to hate, for men have so fearfully misused it of God's operations. Once we see that all of God's dealings are with a view to the eventual **reconciliation of all**, the idea of punitive retribution, introduced by corrupt theology, will become abhorrent. We must remember that the object of all **God's operations are rooted in love** and fruited in reconcilia-

tion. If God is love, He cannot be orthodox. Before there can be a universal reconciliation, each one must be set right with God, and this is accomplished at the judging. Such indeed is the true meaning of judgment.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
*The Problem of Evil*²

ALL DISTINCTIONS WILL EVENTUALLY CEASE

It is true that all distinctions will eventually cease in the consummation when the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man (or would it not be more reverential to say, the sonship of man) will be no longer a sentimental theory but an accomplished fact; yet as long as distinctions prevail, and by divine ordination, we must give heed and recognize them if we would be unashamed, efficient workmen.

— F.H. Robison (1885-1932)
*Are Bride and Body Identical?*²

2. These titles are available through StudyShelf.com, also see order form.

The Salvation of All – Select Readings	
on Universal Reconciliation (part 5).....	6633
Crumbs or Feast?	6636
Accidents and Disobedience Occur by	
Divine Appointment	6637
Reader's Question Box #29: Is Evil	
Determined by God?	6638
Stop Taking Yourself So Seriously (quote) ...	6638
The “Wrath” of God.....	6639

1. Part 1 – BSN #114; Part 2 – BSN #142; Part 3 – BSN #163; Part 4 – BSN #177; also, see our blog for more quotes on this theme: <http://salvationofall.wordpress.com/>

NOT CONDITIONED ON HUMAN RESPONSE

The history of organized religion, at least in the Western tradition, is a record of our human resistance to the proclamation that God is love, that His love extends to everyone, and that it is in no way conditioned upon human obedience or human faithfulness.

— Thomas Talbott
The Inescapable Love of God

GOD'S FATHERHOOD

This word [Father], as now, unlocked all mysteries, solved all problems, and explained all the enigmas of time and eternity. Holding God as Father, punishment was held to be remedial, and therefore restorative, and final recovery from sin universal. It was only when the Father was lost sight of in the judge and tyrant, under the baneful reign of Augustinianism, the Deity was hated, and that Catholics transferred to Mary, and later, Protestants gave to Jesus that supreme love that is due alone to the Universal

Father. For centuries in Christendom ... the Fatherhood of God was a lost truth, and most of the worst errors of the modern creeds are due to that single fact, more than to all other causes.

— J.W. Hanson (1823-1901)
*Universalism the Prevailing Doctrine of the Christian Church During Its First Five Hundred Years*²

GOD'S SURE PURPOSE

It is God's will, and I delight in it even when it disappoints my hopes. As for God, His way is perfect; He has a purpose which He is steadily carrying out, and He is making all things work together to accomplish it. That purpose is that we may be conformed to the image of His Son, and – with all our perverseness and unbelief, and the thousand other things that we are ashamed of as we look back on our past lives – that purpose will one day be completely accomplished. How fine we shall be then!

— J.G. M'Vicker (1826-1900)
God's Sure Purpose

Bible Student's Notebook™

Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

ISSN: 1936-9360

Volume 32, No. 777 – July 8, 2019

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 3:1-3);
- 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 (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication; thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

Bible Student's Notebook™

PO Box 265, Windber, PA 15963

Office: (800) 784-6010 – Local: (814) 701-0063

bsn@studyshef.com

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr. – Editor
André Sneider – Managing Editor
Keith Martin – Associate Editor

Managers and Assistants

Clyde L. Pilkington, III, Nathan H. Pilkington, Janet L. Maher, Stephen Hill, Cindy Pilkington, Nadine Sneider

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

Copyright © 1989-2019 Bible Student's Press™

WILL GOD THROW UP HIS HANDS IN THE PURPOSE OF SIN

Sin is not [God's] tyrant but His slave. It crushes that He may cure. It kills that He may make alive. Its function is to show God's creatures their utter dependence on His power. It gives them a wholesome horror of existence without Him. It will change them from His creatures to His friends. It will drive them into His bosom.

— A.E. Knoch (1874-1965)
The Problem of Evil

GOD STOOPS TO CONQUER

If God were proud He would hardly have us on such terms; but He is not proud: He stoops to conquer, He will have us even though we have shown that we prefer everything else to Him, and come to Him because there is "nothing better" now to be had.

— C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)
The Problem of Pain

DEFEAT?

And when He was come near, He beheld the city, and wept over it (Luke 19:41).

In the Gospels, we are told that as Jesus rides into Jerusalem He weeps over the rejection He is about to experience from His people (Luke 19:41). If God looks like Jesus (John 14:9; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3), then it seems that an everlasting hell would mean

everlasting tears flowing down the face of God. It is impossible for me to believe that the God revealed in Jesus will at some point simply throw up His hands in defeat or harden His heart in retaliation.

— Heath Bradley
Flames of Love

"AEONIAN"

Of all the arguments on this question, the one which appears to me the most absolutely and hopelessly futile is the one in which so many seem to rest with entire content; viz., that "eternal or *aeonian* life" must mean endless life, and therefore that "*aeonian* chastisement" must mean "endless chastisement." ...

No proposition is capable of more simple proof than that *aeonian* is *not* a synonym of endlessness. It only means, or can mean, in its *primary* sense, pertaining to an *aeon*, and therefore "indefinite," since an *aeon* may be either long or short ...

— F.W. Farrar (1831-1903)
The Wider Hope

GOD IS NOT A WOULD-BE SAVIOR

... We trust in the living God, Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.

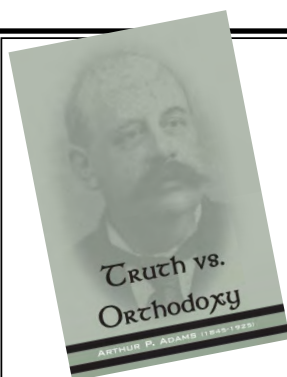
Some would advocate that I Timothy 4:10 suggests that God is some sort of passive Savior; a Savior that offers His hand to drowning humanity but requires

(see **SELECT READINGS**, page 6637)

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:



108 pp., PB

See order form.

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"

Crumbs or Feast?

by — Oscar Baker (1898-1987)

Those who have been initiated in right division (II Timothy 2:15) will immediately recognize the lesson presented in this picture (below). Others may need a hint as to the meaning of it all.

When a Gentile woman came to the Lord in the vicinity of Tyre and Sidon and asked that a demon be cast out of her daughter, she was reminded that it was not proper to take the food intended for the children and cast it to the dogs (read Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30).



the Jews (John 4:22). Israel was not only first, but at that time they were the only ones blessed with dispensational blessings. Until Acts 10, Gentiles as such were not partakers of Israel's blessings. Not until that point in Acts was a Gentile ever grafted into the commonwealth of Israel; prior to that point in time, Gentiles could not enter into the Kingdom blessings. Only afterward could the Gentile sit at Israel's table and partake of the promise made to Abraham. However, a wall of partition remained, and the Jew was still first (read Romans 11).



Once the salvation of God was sent to the Gentiles (Acts 28:28), the Gentile had blessings of his own. Paul, the Jew, was the one to point out this fact. However, do not get the idea from the picture that this is Paul pointing to the blessings of the Gentiles and still partaking of the Jewish blessings. When the dispensation of the mystery was revealed through the bond-servant Paul, he was first to partake of the blessings. That hope was his hope.

Today many exist who think the church [ecclesia] of the mystery began at Pentecost. However, if this church began at Pentecost, then we Gentiles are still under the table picking up crumbs. Also, if it began, as some say, at Acts 10 or 13, then we Gentiles are sitting at Israel's table sharing in their blessing and the hope of the Kingdom, not of the church [of Ephesians].

Where do you sit? (Ephesians 2:6)

— *Truth for Today*, August, 1963

TOPICS:

Major: Acts 28; Gentile; Right Division

Minor: Mystery

This incident happened in the days when salvation was of

Figures of Speech Used in the Bible

by — E.W. Bullinger



535 pp., PB

See order form.

Bible students have made serious blunders through the inattention to figures of speech, clouding the real meaning of many important passages of Scripture. Bullinger's work, first published in 1898, clarifies 217 distinct figures of speech used in the Bible. In systematic order, this classic gives the proper pronunciation of each figure of speech, its etymology or origin, and a number of Scripture passages where the figure of speech is used, giving full explanation of its use in each context. It cites nearly eight thousand Bible passages and includes five appendices and seven indexes, making it even more valuable as a reference tool. No other work approaches the scope and detail of this field of study. *New edition:* Re-typeset and formatted, with errata incorporated.

Accidents and Disobedience Occur by Divine Appointment

by — Jim Coram

ACCIDENTS

It needs to be realized even in the case of, humanly speaking, unintentional deaths by accident that such events occur according to divine appointment. In Israel of old, if a man smote another inadvertently, that is, apart from “*malicious intent*,” still, it was to be understood that,

the One, Elohim, He had fated him into his hand (Exodus 21:12-13).



“Get her for me: for she pleases me well.” But his father and mother did not know that it was of Yahweh [that this occurred], for He sought an occasion against the Philistines (Judges 14:3-4).

In violating the *revealed* (or perceived) will of God, Samson thus fulfilled the *decretive*¹ will (or hidden intention) of God. **BSN**

— The Myth of “Free Will”

Unsearchable Riches, Vol. 109; Number 3

DISOBEDIENCE

Similarly, Samson, contrary to the *revealed* will of God through the Law of Moses, sought to take a Philistine woman as his wife. His parents attempted to dissuade him from his *sin*, but Samson would only say,

TOPICS:

Major: Sovereignty; Free Will; Accidents; Disobedience

Minor: Samson

1. **[Editor:]** Having the force of a decree; determining.

SELECT READINGS (continued from page 6635)

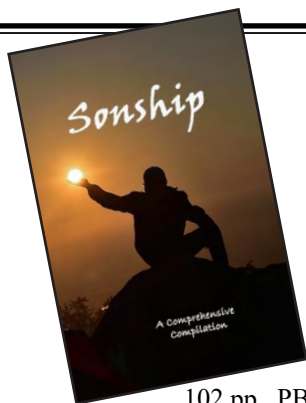
man to extend his own hand to be saved. This defies the definition of Savior. God is not a would-be Savior; He is the Savior of *all* men. He doesn't only try to be the Savior of all men; He *is* the Savior of all men. He does not suggest that all men allow Him to be their Savior; He *is* the Savior of all men. He either

is or He isn't.

— Aaron Locker

The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe: A Comprehensive Compilation

BSN



102 pp., PB

See order form.

Sonship: A Comprehensive Compilation

The Romans 9 “*sonship*” is the exclusive prerogative of “*Israel according to the flesh*,” the Galatians 4 “*sonship*” extends to the spiritual seed of Abraham who are not “*after the flesh*” (:23), but was associated with “*Jerusalem which is above*” (:26). However, the Ephesians “*sonship*” has no relationship whatsoever to Abraham or Israel. It has no connection with the promises made unto the fathers, it is not founded on an earthly inheritance (allotment). The Ephesians “*sonship*” extends back before the disruption of the world, and extends “*far above*” all heavens. These three “*sonship*” distinctions correspond to the three distinct spheres of blessing. This book contains 14 works from 10 authors, spanning 100 years.

Authors include: Tom Ballinger, John H. Essex (1907-1991), M. Jaegle, A.E. Knoch (1874-1965), Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr., George L. Rogers (1869-1947), Russell H. Schaefer (1919-1999), C.R. Stam (1909-2003) and Charles H. Welch (1880-1967).



Reader's Question Box #29

Is Evil Determined by God?

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Q: All acts, whether good or evil are done at God's determination." This is what gets in my way – does this mean every evil act of each and every person was determined by God? I do not find that idea in His Word. – *K.M.*

A: The Scriptures teach that “*all things are of God*” (II Corinthians 5:18). There is nothing in God's creation that does not ultimately come from Him, even evil, for He directly tells us plainly that He is the creator of evil:

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things (Isaiah 45:7).

“*Evil*” is God's servant: the temporary, divine contrast to “*good*.” After all, it is God Himself Who placed the “*Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*” in Eden's garden – and it will be God Himself Who will ultimately remove evil from His creation once it has fulfilled its purpose.

For further study and consideration on evil see:

Daily Email Goodies:

The Origin of Evil – M. Jaegle

<https://thedeityofgod.wordpress.com/2017/09/20/the-origin-of-evil/>

The Necessity of Evil – Bert Bauman

<https://thedeityofgod.wordpress.com/2015/08/25/the-necessity-of-evil/>

There Were Two Trees in the Garden – Clyde L. Pilkington

<https://dailygoodies.wordpress.com/2015/12/07/there-were-two-trees-in-the-garden/>

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil – A.E. Knoch

<https://thedeityofgod.wordpress.com/2016/11/20/the-tree-of-the-knowledge-of-good-and-evil/>

Audios:

Who Created Evil? – Clyde Pilkington

http://www.biblestudentsradio.com/bsr_0012

[whocreatedevil.mp3](#)

Videos:

God Created Evil – Clyde Pilkington

<http://www.thescriptureminute.com/evil.html>

Books: (See order form, or follow the StudyShelf links:)

The Creation of Evil, Sin and Satan

– Various Authors

<http://pilkingtonandsons.com/compilations.htm#2954>

The Mystery of Evil – Joseph Williams

<http://www.studyshelf.com/facsimile.htm#3039>

The Problem of Evil – A.E. Knoch

<http://www.studyshelf.com/knoch.htm#3850>

BSN

TOPICS:

Major: Evil; Reader's Question Box; Sovereignty

Stop Taking Yourself So Seriously

If men will cease taking themselves so seriously and accept God's statement that “*we can do nothing against the truth but only for the truth*” (II Corinthians 13:8), they will not be so fearful of the task of plunging into the study of the Word of God. The Bible may be deep, but if need be I prefer to drown in it rather than be battered to death by the waves of human ignorance, human error, superstition and opinion. Those who meditate upon the Word of God day and night are called “*blessed*” (Psalm 1:1-2). That word means “*happy*.” I claim to be one of those happy men.

— Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

TOPICS:

Major: Quotes (titled)

The “Wrath” of God

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

Once we understand that “*God is love*” (I John 4:8, 16) we are better equipped to bring into focus all passages of Scripture concerning Him, His nature and His actions as well. Since “*God is love*,” all other qualities attributed to Him are thus always subservient to His love.



Much of what we learn about God is presented to us in Scriptures through the *figure of speech* known as “*Condescension*” (or *Anthropopatheia*), where human qualities are attributed to God.

A.E. Knoch (1874-1965) wrote concerning “*Condescension*”:

When God is spoken of as if He were human, or were a part of His creation, this is done in His Condescension, so that He may reveal Himself in terms within the range of human perception. – *Concordant Literal New Testament*, Appendix A: Figures of Speech, page 358

The Hebrew and Greek words that are translated as “*wrath*” and “*anger*” in reference to God are great examples of His nature being expressed in human terms. However, whatever these words may mean they must always be consistent with “*God is love*.” A word that might best be used to translate the overall concept of these words is “*passion*,” rather than the “*wrath*” or “*anger*” of God.

For example: take me as a father toward my children. I have always had, and always will have, a great love toward them that is “*passionate*,” but it is never “*wrathful*” or “*angry*.” My “*passion*” may have expressions toward them that are apparently “*positive*” (such as in *passionately* giving “*good*” things to them) or “*negative*” (such as in *passionate* discipline). However, even what might be perceived as my “*negative*” passions (such as discipline) are never “*wrathful*” or “*angry*.” So it is with God our Father.

Concerning this important theme, John R. Gavazoni writes,

What is translated as “*wrath*” in conventional translations cannot – as commonly believed – be an essential change of disposition on God’s part toward man. God has only one disposition, one inclination, one divine posture in His relationship with man, that of unconditional love coming to us in unearned grace. He is determined to fully give Himself to us unreservedly. When one sees this, we become His bond slave, bound by such love.

The primary Greek work translated as “*wrath*” is ὀργή (*orgē*)¹ from which we get our English word, “*orgy*,” and its various forms. The word itself and its root conveys aroused passion, excitement, a reaching after and overlaps in meaning with θυμός (*thumos*),² translated also as “*wrath*.” Ed Browne translates *orgē* as God’s “*intrinsic fervor*.” I like that. I think Ed has captured the essential meaning. For me, it suggests ravishing love.

Since God *is* love, then wrath necessarily is a form of love, for nothing could proceed out from the nature of God that is inconsistent with the love that He *is*. The conclusion is just too obvious once one has been delivered from the dark, demonic imagination that fuels eternal torment dogma; namely, that God, when faced with the ontological contrarianism that seeks to impose on us a false identity, with us being overcome by a false persona, His love is aroused to reclaim us, to lay claim with divine jealousy to that which belongs to Him. With intrinsic fervor He reaches out to possess that which is His, and we are His by creation and by redemption ...

What is commonly called “*the wrath of God*” is that

1. James Strong: Greek #3709, “*desire*,” “*excitement of the mind*”; W.E. Vine: “*Originally any natural impulse or desire, or disposition*”; E.W. Bullinger: “*The mind, the spirit that is breathed out, an intense passion of the mind*”; J.H. Thayer: “*To teem, denoting an internal motion, especially that of plants and fruits swelling with juice*.”
2. James Strong: Greek #2372: “*passion* (as if *breathing hard*).”

quality of love that will not let us go and will not let us miss the glory of His love. It's an awesome, passionate, jealous, intense, possessive love, that when heated up fills us with awe. Initially it can be terribly frightening to be the object of such fervor.³

While some may use fringe definitions of Hebrew, Greek or English words to attribute “wrath” and “anger” to God, nonetheless their usage and meaning must always be brought into line with the revealed truth: “God is love.”

“Wrath” and “anger” – without a full understanding that “God is love” – are more harmful than helpful translations, whereas “passion” does not carry the concept of an emotion and action that could necessarily be found outside of “love.”

Misapplications of the root meaning of ὀργή (*orgē*) are plenteous, but we must always remember that dictionaries, as well as other human resources, though sometimes helpful tools for gaining our bearings with word meanings, are nonetheless man-made and thus error-prone. The works of men must not be regarded as divinely authoritative, since they are all extremely susceptible to the prejudice of false paradigms and thus must always be subjected to the test of the Scriptures themselves. Human resources prove helpful only as long as they are *consistent* with the Divine Revelation.

Gustavus Hiller (1852-1939),⁴ editor of *The Promise*

3. *The Cup of God's Wrath* (2006).

4. Hiller was an associate of A.E. Knoch and the editor of *The Prom-*

magazine, reminds us,

Since God is love, and can never change His nature, His wrath must also be a manifestation of His love, just as a genuine human father shows his love just as much toward his wayward son when he chastises him as when he, at other times, gives him good gifts. God's wrath simply manifests the eagerness of His love, which desires the salvation of His human children, and therefore is bent on overcoming and abolishing all obstacles that hinder His gracious purpose. So His indignation is altogether holy, and His wrath is His love in operation, to bring about the salvation of mankind. This idea of love manifesting itself in wrath is admirably expressed in the Song of Songs 8:6-7 where we read:

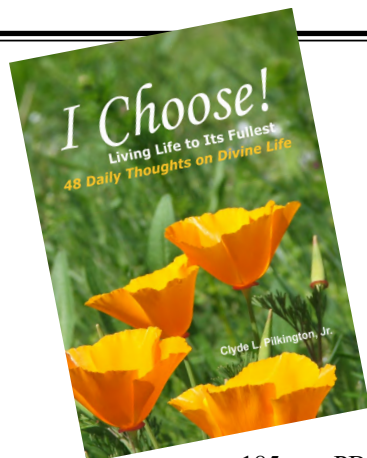
... For love is strong as death, its jealousy hard as the unseen, its burning coals as burning coals of fire, the blaze of Yah. Many waters cannot quench love, nor can streams overwhelm it. ...⁵ **BSN**

TOPICS:

Major: Anger, Condescension, *Orgē*, Passion, Thumos, Wrath
Minor: Love

ise magazine that eventually merged with the *Unsearchable Riches* in 1924. German born, he pastored German Methodist churches in Minneapolis, Toledo, Covington and Louisville, finishing his long ministry outside of the church-system in Indianapolis (among a fellowship rotating in homes, affectionately known as The Berean Circle).

5. *The Great Question: Will God Redeem His Own Creation?* available as a part of our [Facsimile Project](#); see order form.



185 pp., PB

See order form.

I Choose! Living Life to Its Fullest

Forty-Eight Daily Thoughts on Divine Life

by — Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

You are alive! Yet not just alive, but alive with the very life of God! Don't allow your “What if ...” imaginations of the past or the future to lay claim to the present that God has given you. Allow the objective, unchanging truth of who God has made you in the Lord Jesus Christ to transform your mind and life as you take this spiritual journey of “*I Choose.*”

These “choices” are not to be confused with so-called “free will.” At the close of the book the author will reveal that our “choices” are nothing short of God's sovereign decree in our lives.