

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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## WOULDN'T IT BE EMBARRASSING!

Wouldn't it be embarrassing, in order to have fellowship with a group, to embrace statements like these?

1. **WHATEVER THE INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIAN MAY DO THE CHURCH MAY ALSO DO!** 1 Timothy 5:16 can be read to show the falsity of that statement. If the statement were true, we'd have the church engaged in farming, banking, and all kinds of business enterprises and recreational endeavors.

2. **WHEN TWO OR MORE CHRISTIANS JOIN IN SOME ACTIVITY IT IS IN REALITY THE CHURCH ACTING.** When two disciples lied about their giving, Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5, was that "CHURCH ACTION?" Was the Jerusalem church lying? When the disciple at Corinth was in an adulterous relationship with another member of the church, probably, was the church committing adultery or the individuals? (Editor's note: I know of no evidence that the woman involved was probably a member of the church. However, if when an individual member acts, that is the CHURCH acting, the point would be that when the "brother" at Corinth committed fornication, in reality, it

was the church committing fornication.) If three preachers go fishing, did the church go fishing? I've been told "yes" to this question. If three sons who are Christians send money to care for a widowed mother, is it the church that is caring for the mother or the sons? I've been told it would be the "church" caring for the mother in this case! Wouldn't you be embarrassed to try to defend such a silly position?

3. **FOR THERE TO BE COOPERATION, THERE MUST EXIST A CENTRALIZATION OF FUNDS AND OVERSIGHT.** Independent action cannot result in cooperation, is the idea they wish to present. A disciple told me if four brothers wish to cooperate in support of their widowed mother, they'd have to pool their funds and let one of the brothers "oversee" the collecting and mailing the funds; that if the four each sent his check directly to his mother, they would not be cooperating in her support! He then applied this reasoning (?) to the churches. Wouldn't you be ashamed to make such an absurd argument?

—E. L. Flannery

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### "Prepare to Meet thy God" – No. 2

In our study last month, we pointed out the essentiality of preparation to meet God, as revealed in the Scripture. We emphasized three primary reasons as to WHY preparation is imperative. First, THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE; secondly, THE INEVITABILITY OF DEATH, and thirdly, THE SURETY OF JUDGMENT. I trust that each one of us are keenly aware of the need for preparation to meet God.

#### HOW TO PREPARE TO MEET GOD?

All that we know about what is required in order to meet God is what we learn from the inspired Scripture. Thus our appeal should be to it, and to it alone. Since God has provided sufficient grace by which we may be saved, and thus has done His part, we shall deal primarily with what man must do in order to be washed in the blood of Christ and be prepared to meet God.

#### IF YOU ARE AN ALIEN SINNER:

1. YOU MUST HEAR THE PURE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. One must call on the name of the Lord in order to be saved. But how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? "So

then faith cometh by HEARING and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:13-17).

2. YOU MUST BELIEVE IN GOD AND IN JESUS CHRIST AS BEING THE SON OF GOD. Heb. 11:6 tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh unto God MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." The Philippian jailor was told to "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Acts 16:31). In 1 John 5:1 we are told that "whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God . . ."

3. YOU MUST REPENT. Repentance is a change of mind (heart), that is wrought by godly sorrow that results in a change of life. Jesus told some during His personal ministry in Luke 13:3, "I tell you Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." The apostle Peter preached repentance "for the remission of sins" in Acts 2:38. Paul told the Athenians in Acts 17:30-31 that God "now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" because of the impending judgment.

4. YOU MUST CONFESS FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Paul said in Rom. 10:10, "and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." The context shows this confession is of the Lord Jesus. The eunuch confessed in Acts 8:37 saying "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

5. YOU MUST BE BAPTIZED IN WATER. Jesus said to His apostles, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mk. 16:15-16). This has reference to water baptism in view of the fact that it was to be administered by disciples. (See Matt. 28:19-20). Peter commanded those who had crucified Christ to "repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

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## HARBORING LIARS AND MURDERERS!

Would you knowingly uphold, endorse, and harbor (protect and defend) those who are liars and murderers? Of course, none would admit to doing this, yet it is a fact that such is often done even by good and sincere people. Hardly any sins are more repulsive to those who love truth and right, and none would want to even associate with, much less harbor, those who are guilty of such wickedness. It is often true that churches have in their number those guilty of such evils. Sometimes these "liars" and "murderers" are in places of leadership. They are often excused and defended by unthinking and foolish people. What a shame!

The above may appear to be strong and harsh language, but it is Bible teaching and the very language that God's Word uses. Here it is:

(1) LIARS: "If a man say, I love God, and HATETH HIS BROTHER, he is a LIAR . . ." (1 John 4:20).

(2) MURDERERS: "Whosoever HATETH HIS BROTHER is a MURDERER: and we know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." (1 John 3:15).

In view of this teaching, and considering the fact that SOME members of the church actually hate (and are prompted and motivated by such) their brother, it is easily apparent that the language above is true and timely.

Furthermore, those who are liars and murderers are children of the devil. (Editor's note: Even God's children who fall in this category of liars, etc., are in one sense of the devil.) "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a MURDERER from he beginning . . . for he is a LIAR, and the father thereof." (John 8:44).

The eternal destiny of such people is sure and certain: "But the fearful . . . MURDERERS . . . and all LIARS, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the

## BRO. A. V. HOLSONBACK

Alford V. Holsonback was born March 5, 1927 in Marshall County, Alabama. With the exception of about one year, this county has been his home. One March 23, 1967, he was accidentally killed near Lake Village, Ind. He is survived by his wife and five children, his parents, four brothers, four sisters and a host of relatives, friends, and brethren in the Lord. His body was laid to rest in Memory Hill Cemetery in Albertville on March 26, 1967, to await the resurrection.

For a number of years, Bro. Holsonback had been a Christian and had endeavored to live right and encourage others to do likewise. Several years ago he heard the gospel of Christ preached, and upon a confession of his faith in Jesus Christ as being God's Son, he was baptized for the remission of his sins. He believed the Scripture to be God's revelation to man. He thus studied in order to learn how to live and to teach others the gospel of Christ. When he believed truth was involved, he had an uncompromising spirit, yet he was characterized by humility and kindness. He was a man of prayer and one who gave to many who were in need of assistance.

His family has lost a dear loved one who was vitally concerned about them and their welfare. We pray to Him who is the God of all comfort, to console, strengthen and sustain his wife and children, as well as his parents, brothers and sisters, as they live on earth.

We, his brethren in Christ, will constantly missed him, not only because he was a good friend and a dear brother, but because he was a zealous companion and fellow-laborer in the work of the Lord. Although we sorrow, it is not without hope! (CRS)

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second death." (Rev. 21:8).

Let us be certain and sure that we are not of this wicked class who will suffer such a horrible fate.

—Charles A. Holt

# A Voice From The Past

"When I am preaching for some church and condemn instrumental music, and some brother says nobody here believes in musical instruments, then I condemn infant baptism, and no one says a thing about it, or when I condemn sprinkling, no one says anything, then I grow suspicious. Some churches are but feeders for the digressive city churches. Why say no one here believes in instrumental music, and therefore, you should not preach on it? That is the very reason it ought to be done . . ."

—C. M. Pullias, 1928, Taken from FAIR-VIEW FACTS.

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"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD"—

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for the remission of sins . . ." (Acts 2: 38). He further showed the essentiality of baptism to salvation when he said in 1 Peter 3:21 that "baptism doth also now save us." The apostle Paul points out in Rom. 6:3 and Gal. 3:27 that in order to be a child of God by faith in Christ Jesus, one must be baptized INTO Him.

Are you prepared for the judgment? If you have not "obeyed from the heart" the Lord's will as outlined in the Scripture, regardless of what you have done, or how you may feel, or what you may think you've got, or what someone may have told you, YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO MEET GOD and hence will be lost eternally if you die as you are now! Remember, the Word of God shall judge you in the last day. (See John 12:47). (CRS)

(To be continued next month)

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## Sentence Sermons

If you are blessed with a sympathetic disposition, don't waste it on yourself.

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Glands have a lot to do with success, particularly sweat glands.

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If we would lift others up, we must be on higher ground.

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The one person who is worse than a quitter, is the person who is afraid to begin.

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It isn't necessary to blow the other fellow's light out, in order to let yours shine.

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