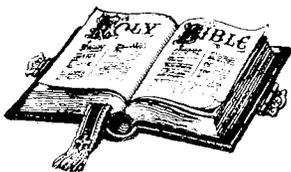


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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NOT "WITHOUT OUR HUSBANDS"

"And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our husbands?" (Jer. 44:19).

The Jews had fled to Egypt after the murder of the Babylonian governor Gedaliah, fearing Babylonian wrath. They continued their idolatry in Egypt and Jeremiah threatened them with severe punishment. They answered that their troubles had come when they had quit worshipping **"the queen of heaven"** (vv. 17b-18) — an interesting perversion of history which refers to Josiah's reforms. See vv. 20-23 for Jeremiah's refutation.

Verse 19 concludes their answer. Obviously, women are speaking at this point. One manuscript of the Septuagint (Grk. translation of Heb. OT) begins v. 19 with the reading, **"And all the women answered and said, . . ."**

"We did not," contend the women, **"worship the queen of heaven WITHOUT OUR HUSBANDS"** — meaning without their knowledge and approval. The husband was the head of the wife, and without his consent the woman's vow would not be binding. (Num. 30). The women are arguing that they had not worshipped the queen of heaven without the consent of their husbands.

But why mention that fact? Did it clear them of guilt? Evidently they thought so. Evidently they thought the responsibility was upon their husbands and they were free.

If that reasoning seems farfetched to you, perhaps you need to recall the famous war trials in which one Nazi underling after another argued that he was only carrying out orders and not really responsible.

We need often to be reminded that every individual is responsible for whatever he does. A Christian who acts as an agent of the government must remember that he is responsible for what he does. He is always responsible for doing right and cannot escape responsibility for his actions by pleading that he was only acting under orders. Let us beware of placing ourselves in situations where we would not be free to do what we judge to be right.

Some have tried to escape the responsibility of their support of unscriptural church programs by arguing that their part was to give money and the elders were responsible for how it was spent. No doubt the elders have a special responsibility and you will not be held responsible for what they do, (except as you consent to it). But each person is responsible for his own participation in any program.

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

Let God's Word Direct You

Although many people (in fact the majority) minimize the Scriptures and do not see the importance of being directed by the Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures, we are pleading with men to learn, believe and obey the truth as revealed therein. Here are some reasons why you should be directed by the Word of God.

1. YOU ARE LOST IN SIN. Paul said: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). He also said: "For the wages of sin is death . . ." (Rom. 6:23).

2. YOU CANNOT DIRECT YOUR OWN STEPS. A long time ago Jeremiah said: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23). We learn from 1 Cor. 1:21 that "in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God." God designed it so that man of his own wisdom could not know God. Man must accept the revelation of God's will in the Scriptures.

3. YOU WILL ERR IF YOU DO NOT KNOW THE SCRIPTURES. Speaking to the Sadducees Jesus said: "You do er, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God."

4. THE SCRIPTURES ARE INSPIRED OF GOD. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of

God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Also see Eph. 3:2-6; 2 Peter 1:21).

5. GOD'S WORD GIVES LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING. In speaking to God, the Psalmist said: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple." (Psalms 119:130). Also see Eph. 3:2-6; 2 Tim. 2:7.

6. THE TRUTH MAKES FREE. Jesus said: "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32).

7. GOD'S WORD IS QUICK AND POWERFUL. Hebrews 4:12 says: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." We learn from Romans 1:16 that the gospel "is the power of God to salvation."

8. FAITH COMES BY HEARING GOD'S WORD. Paul tells us, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Romans 10:17).

9. MAN CAN BE SANCTIFIED BY THE TRUTH. In addressing the Father in John 17:17 Jesus said: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

10. THE WORD OF GOD CLEANSSES. In speaking to His disciples, Jesus said: "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." (John 15:3).

11. THE TRUTH PURIFIES THE SOUL. Speaking to the children of God, Peter said: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth ..." (1 Peter 1:22).

12. SALVATION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE WORD OF GOD. James says: "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul." (James 1:21). Cf. Rom. 1:16.

13. ONE CANNOT HAVE GOD UNLESS HE ABIDES IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST. 2 John 9 says: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."

14. ONE MUST BE A HEARER AND A DOER OF THE WORD IN ORDER TO BE BLESSED. James 1:22 says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:25 says, "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a

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LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS

The New Testament teaches: **"For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace and ensue it."** 1 Peter 3:10-11.

These verses instruct the child of God, other things being equal, on how to "love life and see good days." The expression "let him," makes it clear that his **good life** is no accident. There are many saints who do not really love life, and to them the days are not good. **Life is really worth living!** To make it so, here are some things you must do.

LET YOUR TONGUE SPEAK NO EVIL. The Christian is to lead a pious and upright life with a desire to do good to all men and evil to none. This demands that his tongue refrain from falsehood, slander, obscenity, profaneness, and opinions that destroy. No man can speak evil and maintain a pure heart, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matthew 12:34.

LET YOUR LIPS SPEAK NO GUILE. The child of God is to make certain constantly that his mouth utters no deceit. We must never speak in such a manner that others might be misguided. Just a few deceptive words can often do you more damage than you can overcome in a lifetime. We are to be single minded, and single tongued. We are to "speak the truth and lie not."

YOU MUST ESCHEW EVIL. "The word 'eschew' came originally from a Norman word 'eschever' — which means 'to shun or avoid.' The Greek word means literally, 'to lean out from.' The word here refers to the acts of bending aside from one's path at the approach of evil." (Wuest's Word Studies). I think it should be obvious that any child of God who "leans toward evil" is not in harmony with the Father.

DO GOOD. The saint of God is to "work that which is good toward all men." This simply means that whatever I do in regard to my fellow man is to be done in his best interest. It matter not whether I am giving, receiving, teaching, or even rebuking evil in others. I must be motivated by a sincere interest in the welfare of others. Gal. 6:10.

SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT. First, seek peace with God by faith and obedience to His will, and it will follow, as night follows day, you will be at peace with yourself and with all who are like-minded.

Peace with men doesn't prove that you are at peace with God. It may only prove that you are in a state of compromise with evil. It is imperative that we establish peace with God first, and then proper peace will follow with all others, as it is possible. Sometime it is not possible, so Paul wrote: "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Romans 12:18. Peace is no accident! It must be sought and then it must be pursued.

The God of heaven, who maintains all things by the power of His word, who never fails to keep His promises, has assured us a lovely life, with good days IF we will but respect His will. I URGE YOU TO TRY IT!

—W.R. Jones
in THE MESSANGER, 12/4/74

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NOT "WITHOUT OUR HUSBANDS"

If you had some part in making possible an unscriptural church program, you may not have acted "without the elders," but you are responsible for what you have done and you cannot escape it. **"So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God,"** (Romans 14:12), — and that includes what each one has done together with others as well as what he has done independently. Let each one individually determine to stand with both feet planted upon the word of God.

—L.A. Mott
in PERSPECTIVES, Aug., 1978

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LET GOD'S WORD DIRECT YOU forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.'

15. THE MILK OF THE WORD IS ABLE TO MAKE CHRISTIANS GROW. 1 Pet. 2:2 says: **"As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."**

16. THE WORD OF GOD WILL JUDGE US. See John 12:48; James 2:12; Rev. 20:12-15.

We sincerely urge you to study the word of God, believe it with all your heart and let it direct you to heaven.

(CRS)

THERE IS A PATTERN

God does not leave his church to wander with aimless feet. The New Testament contains the pattern for its work just as it has for its worship.

In Matthew 26:26-27 we are told to partake of the Lord's Supper. The only way man can know when it is to be observed is to follow the apostle's example in Acts 20:7 when the church at Troas met on the first day of the week to break bread. This constitutes the divine pattern. The Lord commands us to eat and the apostles show us when.

In exactly the same way in the sixth chapter of Acts the apostles show us who is to relieve the needy saints. When the widows were to be provided for, the apostles, in verse three, instructed the church to appoint seven men "over this business." This is God's pattern. When there are needy widows or other saints who are the charge of the church, the church is to relieve them. In 1 Timothy 5:16 the church is to "relieve them that are widows indeed."

All of this was done without any human institution. The church did the relieving. For the church of our Lord to build and maintain organization unknown to the word of God is sinful. It is a departure of the most serious consequence from the doctrine of Christ. 2 John 9.

The Bible tells us WHO is to do the work. The Missionary Society a century ago violated the very same principle. Preaching

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the gospel was the work of the church. (1 Timothy 3:15). This work could not be turned over to an organization unknown to the word of God.

You owe it to your souls to investigate these and other dangers that threaten the very existence of the church of Jesus Christ.

--James P. Miller

A SMILE

A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so poor but that he can be made rich by it.

A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is Nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give.

--Author Unknown

Sentence Sermons

Those who deny themselves for Christ will enjoy themselves in Christ.

By faith we can see the things that are out of sight.

A good name, like good will, is attained by many good actions but it may be lost by one bad one.

Faith without works is like an automobile without gas.

Righteousness does not consist in being just a little less bad than our neighbors.

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