

# THE INSTRUCTOR



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

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## THE GOSPEL — GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

**"So, as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:15-16).**

"You understand that "gospel" means "good news" — good news about Christ and how to be saved in Him. Preaching the gospel is teaching the gospel. **"It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching (the gospel) to save them that believe."** (1 Cor. 1:21). To teach the gospel is to cause people to understand. The apostle says you must see, hear and understand. Then we are to teach the gospel that it may be understood. Having heard and understood the gospel, you believe it. But being taught law, hearing, understanding and believing is not obeying the law. Man may be taught law, understand and believe in every principle set forth, and justice of said law, yet violate every precept of law and justice. So it is with the gospel. We may teach it, people may believe and understand it, and refuse through life to obey it. Hence, to believe the gospel is not to obey it. Believing only places one in position where they can obey the gospel. There is no degree of faith that will bring man to salvation, except that faith which is perfect by obeying the gospel. God takes vengeance on "all who do not obey the gospel", (2 Thess. 1:8); but God takes vengeance on none but sinners. Then it must follow, that though a man hears,

understands and believes the gospel, he is a sinner till he obeys.

Paul says: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16). As there is no power to save greater than God's power, and the gospel is the power of God, then there is no power greater than God's power — the gospel — to bring men to salvation. If it takes more than the gospel to bring man to salvation, then God's power is not sufficient, seeing the gospel is God's power. What do you think of a man who will pray to God to send down a power from heaven to aid his power — the gospel — in converting and saving souls?

Man must believe on the Christ of the gospel before he can obey his commands as taught in the gospel. Christ sent His apostles to preach (teach) us what we ought to do. They told of Christ, and how to obtain salvation through obedience to Him. The one who believes can, by faith, see freedom from sin. With joy He accepts, obeys, and rejoices in freedom from sin.

Ask a child of God: How were you saved? He will reply: By the power of God. he understands that when he obeyed the gospel he utilized the power of God to reach the goal — salvation. He knows he cannot obey his own faith; but he knows that he can obey the gospel by faith. The obedience to the gospel is the result of faith, and is called faithfulness. As my act of believing the

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## Editorial . . .

### WHY SAINTS SHOULD ASSEMBLE

The necessity of assembling with the saints, if possible, cannot be over-emphasized. Assembling with the saints is absolutely essential to the proper development of a Christian. Although the Scriptures are abundant in this teaching, many Christians are negligent in gathering with the church.

Every child of God should attend every assembly of the local church of which he or she is a member. Here are some of the reasons for doing so.

1. TO SHOW GENUINE LOVE FOR GOD AND CHRIST. Paul said: "**But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**" (Romans 5:8). We learn from 1 John 4:8 that ". . . God is love." "**We love Him, because He first loved us.**" 1 John 4:19). John said: "**For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.**" (1 John 5:3). Jesus said: "**If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.**" (John 14:15). Prophetically Isaiah said: "**And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and The Word of the Lord from**

**Jerusalem.**" (Isaiah 2:3). We can see from Isaiah that God's house (which is the church) is **where** we will be taught God's ways and the word of the Lord. Paul tells us in 1 Timothy 3:15 that "**the house of God**" is "**the church of the living God**" is the "**pillar and ground of the truth.**" Jesus said: "**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**" (Matthew 18:20).

When we assemble with the saints to carry out God's will and to worship Him, we show genuine love for God and Christ!

2. TO SHOW GENUINE LOVE FOR THE TRUTH. In 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 Paul mentions the ". . . **unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that that should believe a lie; That they all might be damned who believe not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**" We must have a love for the truth in order to be saved. We should desire the sincere milk of the word that we might grow. We should hunger and thirst after righteousness. (See Matthew 5:6). When we assemble with the saints to learn the truth and to share our knowledge with others, we show a genuine love for the truth. We should be doers of the Word and not hearers only. (See James 1:22).

3. TO SHOW GENUINE DESIRE FOR THE GROWTH OF THE CHURCH. We learn from the Scriptures that Christ died for the church. He purchased it with His own blood. (See Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25). He truly loved the church. **Do you really love the church?** What are you doing to show your love for the church? According to Ephesians 4:16 "**every joint**" ought to be **supplying** and "**every part**" should be **working**. This would serve to "**make increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**" Do you desire to see the church grow? When you assemble with the saints you indicate your concern for the welfare and growth of the church.

4. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP PROPERLY. No one is born full grown. Each one must develop into spiritual maturity. Peter says: "**As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.**" (1 Peter 2:2). In 2 Peter 3:18 Christians are admonished to "**grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**" In Hebrews 6 we are exhorted to leave the principles of the doctrine of Christ and go on unto perfection.

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### **WHY SAINTS SHOULD ASSEMBLE**

The instructions, exhortations and encouragement that can be ours when we assemble with the saints will help us to grow stronger as Christians and develop into spiritual maturity.

5. **IN ORDER TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD!** The Hebrew writers says: **"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;** (for He is faithful that promised); And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25). This passage makes it obligatory that Christians assemble! We are told to **not** forsake the assembling of our selves together! You can choose to assemble or not to assemble, but if you want to obey God, you must choose to assemble! We urge you to attend every assembly of the church of which you are a member!

6. **TO SHOW GENUINE LOVE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SOULS.** A long time ago God said: **"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest thou way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."** (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). In Ephesians 6:4 the apostle Paul said: **"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."** Solomon said: **"Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."**

The best teaching and training we can give them is by example. We have the responsibility to train them while they are young and receptive. If we wait very long, it will be too late! If we truly love our children we will teach them the importance of the church. We will teach them to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness! If we fail in this life, we will have failed for all eternity.

7. **IN ORDER TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE TO OTHERS!** We are examples — either for good or for evil. We are teaching others daily by our attitudes and our actions. We are to be the "salt" of the earth

and the "light of the world." Paul said to the young preacher Timothy: **"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."** (1 Timothy 4:12). We are to shine as "lights" in the world, holding forth the word of life. (See Phil. 2:14-16). Some one will be influenced by your example for good or for evil.

8. **IN ORDER TO KEEP FROM BECOMING AN INFIDEL.**

Thomas became an unbeliever relative to the Lord's resurrection because he missed an assembly in which the Lord appeared. Those who were present were convinced by the evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead. But Thomas was not there with the other disciples when Jesus came. When they told Thomas they had seen the Lord, Thomas said: **"Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe."** (See John 20:19-29).

To miss one assembly may cause us to not believe some truth that was taught. It is very vital that we attend all the assemblies.

Forsaking the assembling of ourselves together shows either ignorance of God's command or unbelief! Which is it in your case?

9. **BECAUSE EXCUSES WILL NOT JUSTIFY YOU.** Through the years I have heard many excuses given in an effort to justify saints in not assembling. Here are some of them.

A. "I didn't feel like coming" — although not really sick.

B. "I had company."

C. "I went visiting, fishing, etc."

D. "I was too tired."

E. "Our baby had the sniffles."

F. "I didn't get up in time."

G. "The weather was too bad."

H. "Someone offended me."

I. "No one is friendly, didn't speak to me."

J. "There's too many hypocrites."

K. "I don't like the way they do."

L. "It's too far."

M. "I'm just discouraged."

N. "I don't like the preacher."

O. "I can worship at home."

An excuse is "a pretense, pretext." It is many made cloak that will not justify us. I will not set aside the will of God. See Luke 14:16-24 and John 15:22.

10. **IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN.** Only those who are faithful to Jesus Christ

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### THE GOSPEL — GOD'S POWER TO SAVE

gospel is simply the mind seeing, understanding, accepting the gospel as the means ordained of God by which I reach salvation; then I walk by faith in obeying the gospel; by faith, now, I see, I have only by the power of God, reached the goal — salvation!

My act of believing what God says to me cannot be the thing said. My act of believing cannot be the gospel. For this reason my act of believing cannot be the power of God. Then it must follow that I am not saved by my act of believing, but am saved by the power of God — the gospel — when I by faith utilize the power. In obeying the gospel, then, I am saved by the power of God. Reader, from a heart of faith and love obey the gospel, and thus avail yourself of the power of God, and be saved."

—C.R. Nichol in WORDS OF LIFE

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### WHY SAINTS SHOULD ASSEMBLE

are promised eternal happiness in heaven. The Scriptural principle is that "he that endureth to the end shall be saved." Jesus said: "... Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10). In describing those around the throne in Rev. 7:14, one of the elders said: "... These are they that came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." In Rev. 22:14 Jesus said: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." It is obvious from a reading of these passages that a person must be willing to obey God's commandments in order to go to heaven.

To willfully forsake the assembling together with other saints is not only sinful, but it results in other sins. For example, if one fails to assemble it may result in his also failing to break bread, laying by in store, singing, praying and exhorting others to be faithful.

Dear saint, please examine yourself! If you are guilty of forsaking the assembling with saints, you should repent of it, confess it and pray God to forgive you.

Let us assemble with the saints with greater zeal and determination that our lives, by the grace of God, will glorify Him — that we may live with Him forever!

(CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**  
YOU ARE INVITED TO HEAR  
GILBERT ALEXANDER PREACH  
THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST  
IN A SERIES OF GOSPEL  
MEETINGS AT THE EAST  
ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF  
CHRIST. This series is scheduled for  
June 6-11, 1982 at 7:30 each evening.  
Please mark your calendars and  
make plans to be with us!

## Sentence Sermons

Some people don't always believe everything they hear, but they repeat it just to be on the safe side.

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The more love we give away, the more we have.

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Kindness is the language the deaf can hear and the dumb can understand.

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Happiness is a by-product of goodness.

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The Bread of Life never becomes stale.

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