

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

Volume 3

AUGUST, 1966

Number 8

DRESSING TO PLEASE GOD

At this season of the year God b'ess-es us with the summer sunshine, the beautiful flowers and all the other grandeurs of nature. But instead of showing our appreciation to Him for these blessings we use this season for our own selfish pleasures and will not even repect God's wishes in our manner of dress. Of course the weather is hot, but it is not any hotter than it was a generation ago, and we have electric fans and air conditioners which were not even thought of until the last few years.

IS GOD PLEASED?

Do you think that God is pleased with the way people, many even who claim to be His children, dress (or rather undress) today? He was not pleased with Adam and Eve when they dressed (?) in similar fashion. (Gen. 3:7, 21). Be it said to Adam's credit that he knew that he was still naked when he was thus attired. And then we talk about the progress the human race has made!

When God was giving instruction about the way Aaron and the other priests should dress, in addition to the coats and other outer garments, He said, "And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs they shall reach; and they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar

to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die." (Ex. 28:42, 43). If the priests had failed to dress decently as God commanded they would have been put to death for this sin. We today who are Christians are "kings and priests unto God." Will God be pleased with His priests today who dress indecently any more than He was with those priests under the Old Testament law who were guilty of the same sin? To be sure He will not smite us with death because of our sin today, for He no longer deals with His children in such miraculous fashion. But He will remember and punish those guilty of sin just as surely as He did those under Moses' law. "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" (Heb. 10:28, 29).

WOMEN MUST DRESS MODESTLY

After instructing men in the way they should act as he wrote Timothy, the apostle Paul said, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which be-

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Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Alabama.

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Editorial . . .

What Made Hezekiah Great?

Speaking of Hezekiah, King of Judah, the inspired record in 2 Kings 18:5 says, "He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him WAS NONE LIKE HIM AMONG ALL THE KINGS OF JUDAH, nor any that were before him." Beyond question, Hezekiah was a "great" man. What contributed to his greatness?

NOT HIS FATHER

Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz, who was very wicked. Ahaz reigned as King in Jerusalem for sixteen year. He "did not that which was right in the sight of the Lord his God, like David his father". For an account of some of his evil deeds please read 2nd Kings 16. Hezekiah did not become great by following his father's example, but in spite of the example set by his father. A person today may become great in spite of the wickedness of his parents. Each is individually responsible for his conduct.

NOT HIS SON

Manasseh, the son of Hezekiah, succeeded his father as King and reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. "And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel." (2 Kings 21:2). He was more wicked than some of the heathen. For a detailed account of some

of his wicked deeds, please turn to the twenty-first chapter of second Kings. Although Hezekiah was a great man, it was not because of his son Manasseh, but in spite of that. Of course, Manasseh was only a young boy when his father died. Children are not responsible for the actions of their parents. Parents do have a very grave responsibility to their children. Both parents and children should live their own lives, realizing fully their obligations to God their creator.

NOT HIS AGE

Hezekiah began to reign as King of Judah at the age of twenty-five years. He was only fifty-four years old when he died — yet there were none like him among all the kings of Judah." Although young, he immediately began to destroy the idolatrous system of his fathers. Young men are capable of accomplishing much good. Paul said, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded." (Titus 2:6). Paul admonished Timothy saying, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers . ." (1 Tim. 4:12). One may be great whether young or old. Age itself does not assure one of greatness. Today, some of the older preachers who have gone astray imply that they are right because they were preaching before some of us who are younger were born. Such is absurd!

HE DID RIGHT IN GOD'S SIGHT

2 Kings 18:3 says, "And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did". That is what made Hezekiah great. He did not try to please men, but God! We must do likewise. If we seek to please men, we are not true servants of Jesus Christ. (See Gal. 1:10; Acts 5:29).

HE WAS A MAN OF ACTION

Hezekiah immediately began the work of destroying an idolatrous system and repairing the house of the Lord. (See 2 Chron. 29:3). He saw the need and immediately put forth effort to fulfill the same. Many fail today because of slothfulness and the fear of

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DRESSING TO PLEASE GOD

cometh women pofessing godliness) with good works." (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). Are the present-day gym suits, bathing suits and shorts and halters modest apparel? If so, just how much more can be left off and the dress still be modest? Remember God was not pleased with the fig-leaf aprons Adam and Eve wore. And even with the figleaf apron on Adam realized that he was naked and tried to hide himself from God. Were he and Eve dressed in modest apparel?

Certainly this instruction to dress in modest apparel means more than merely to have on enough clothing. Many of the long evening dresses have enough material in them to more than make a modesty dress. Of course some of them are modest, but far too many are immodest because of the way the upper part of the body is left exposed. Even the part of the body that is covered is often fitted so exactly that little is accomplished by having it covered. Would anyone be so foolish as to think that she can please God by wearing such clothing? Can a woman possessing the characteristics of "shamefacedness and sobriety" thus expose her body to the gaze of men and thus excite in them lustful passions? Jesus said, "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:28). Is the woman or girl who dresses indecently, thus causing the lustful gaze of men, without sin in this respect?

But still more is included in this command to dress in modest apparel. In contrast the divinely inspired writer said, "not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." Gaudy clothing with excessive ornamentation which attracts attention to itself is also forbidden. The attractiveness of a woman who is a child of God does not depend on her make-up or her gay clothing. Her outstanding attractiveness is the "hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great

price." (1 Peter 3:4). Far too little attention is given to making oneself attractive to God. Too often the only approval we seek is that of our associates.—Elam B. Kuykendall in GOSPEL DIGEST, June, 1955.

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WHAT MADE HEZEKIAT GREAT

the people. We should be "fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."

HE WAS LOYAL AND UNCOMPROMISING

His first act as King was to destroy a false system of worship and cleanse the house of the Lord that true worship might be offered. (See 2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chron. 29:3-11. Our loyalty to God must come first. We must not compromise because we may hear the voice of the people and fear them. There is a dire need today for men and women who will not compromise God's truth in teaching or in life, but who will be loyal to God in face of adverse circumstances and severe persecutions.

HE TRUSTED IN GOD

Hezekiah "trusted in the Lord God of Israel." (2 Kings 18:5). This is the secret of his success. He, like Abraham of old, trusted in God. If we would be great, we, too, must trust in God!

HE KEPT GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

We learn from 2 Kings 18:6 that Hezekiah "kept God's commandments." This sprang from his trust in God. If we truly trust in God, we will keep His commandments. We cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven unless we do God's will. (See Matt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14). His will has been revealed and we can know it by a diligent study of the Holy Scripture. It is man's duty to "fear God and keep His commandments."

ARE YOU GREAT?

You may not be "great" before men but if you possess the characteristics that we've mentioned that Hezekiah possessed, you will truly be great before the God of heaven and earth. (CRS)

HISTORY SPEAKS

"The disposition to amend and change the appointments of God was at work and was restrained in its growth by Paul's authority as an apostle of the Lord; But when he was taken out of the way it had free course and developed rapidly. It is not difficult to trace its growth through the succeeding centuries, culminating in hierarchies for Which God's Word made no provisions. But that principle is not confined to one or two churches. Its presence is manifest in a greater or lesser degree in all the churches, in the changes in the order of worship, in the ordinances of the church; and in the multiplication of societies and organizations that seem for a time to add to its beauty and activity, but which in the end, as parasites, sap the life out of the churches. This principal is manifest especially in the organization of the churches themselves into societies and ecclesiasticisms that first usurp the work of the churches

and then control them and come between man and God." — David Lipscomb, taken from STONE STREET SWORD & SHIELD, Vol. 1, No. 10.

Are You Interested?

If you are interested in gaining eternal rest with God and the redeemed of all ages, we would like to study the Word of God with you Sept. 5-10 under the tent on Rose Road in Albertville, Ala., at 7:30 PM. We are sincerely interested in assisting you in learning of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. Please meet with us, IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN GOING TO HEAVEN!

IT TAKETH AGE

"It taketh age to make a sage.
The wise no longer doubt it.
The older we grow, the more we know,
And the less we brag about it."

Sentence Sermons

Chains of habit are usually too small to be felt until they become too strong to be broken.

"Free thinkers" are generally those who never really "think" at all.

The reason one goes to worship may be largely determined by what will keep him away.

The anvil always outlasts the hammer.

"A string of opinions no more constitutes faith, than a string of beads constitutes holiness."

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Entered as second-class matter at
Albertville, Alabama