

# 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 21

AUGUST, 1984

Number 8

## **HAVE YOU OBEYED THE TRUTH?**

In Acts 6:7 we are told that **"a great company of the priests were OBEDIENT TO THE FAITH."** The **"obedience"** of those at Rome who were **"called to be saints"** spread **"abroad unto all men."** (See Romans 16:19; 1:7). In writing to the Roman saints Paul mentioned **"obedience to the faith."** (See Romans 1:5).

In order to enter the kingdom of heaven one must **do the will of the Father** which is in heaven. (See Mt. 7:21). In order to be made free from sin, one must **"obey from the heart"** the truth. The apostle Paul said: **"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have OBEYED FROM THE HEART that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."** (Romans 6:17-18). Are you doing the Father's will? Have you obeyed that **"form of doctrine?"** If not, you have not been made free from your sin.

Peter tells us that souls are purified in obeying the truth. In addressing Christians he said: **"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love another with a pure heart fervently."** (1 Peter 1:22). Have you obeyed the truth?

Though Jesus were a Son, He

learned **"obedience"** by the things which He suffered, and He **"became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY HIM."** (Hebrews 5:8-9). If you are to receive eternal salvation, **you must obey the truth** as revealed by Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament! Have you? If not, when do you plan to? Please remember that you are not promised another day in which to live. **Now is the time to obey God.**

We learn from Romans 2:8-9 that those who **"are contentious, and do NOT OBEY THE TRUTH but obey unrighteousness"** shall receive **indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish.** Have you obeyed the truth or have you obeyed unrighteousness?

To obey the truth, you must **believe the gospel, repent of your sins, confess your faith in Christ and be baptized for the remission of sins.** (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:9-10 and Acts 2:38). Have you done these things?

When Jesus comes again He will come **"in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction . . ."** Have you obeyed the gospel? If not, why?

— (CRS)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama

CARROL R. SUTTON  
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

## Editorial . . .

### ***“PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN”*** (No. 5)

In our study last month we discussed the false concept that **“A church can not withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church.”** We mentioned the fact that just because a man who has been preaching for “fifty years” makes such a statement does NOT prove that it is true. Neither does the fact that such a concept is accepted by many “sound preachers” prove that such is taught in God’s Word. **Brethren, IS IT TAUGHT IN GOD’S WORD?** If so, please inform us as to where and how it is taught therein? I would like to remind each of you that it is not enough for one who advocates such to ask someone to give Scriptural proof that such is not authorized in the Scriptures. The person who advocates such is obligated to show by the Scriptures that **“A church can not withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church.”** Do YOU advocate such? If so, we hereby challenge YOU to prove by God’s Word that such is sound doctrine. If you are unable to prove by the Scriptures that such is true, would you be honest enough to stop advocating such and repent for having taught such? Your eternal destiny may be involved! Remember 2 John 9 says: **“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God . . .”**

Number twenty-three is the next (and last) item in the list of twenty five

things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under **“Specific Wickedness”** for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in # 23) has been requested by some of our readers. It reads as follows:

**“23. Christians, and especially preachers, may encourage unfaithful churches (those proven to be in sin and marked by faithful Christians) by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them.”**

COMMENTS: The fact that YOU or someone you love and respect has been (and still is) guilty of having fellowship with **unfaithful** (i.e., **sinful**) churches by worshipping and working with them does not prove that such is Scriptural. In fact, it has absolutely no bearing whatever on whether or not it is Scriptural!

A consideration of the following facts should convince every honest person that the above statement is false.

1. Christians (including preachers) are not to have fellowship with sin.

(a) Ephesians 5:11 says: **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”**

(b) 2 Cor. 6:14-15 says: **“. . . for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?”**

(c) 1 Timothy 5:22 says: **“. . . Neither be partaker of other men’s sins . . .”**

(d) Ephesians 5:7 says: **“Be not ye therefore partakers with them.”**

(e) 2 John 10:11 says: **“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.”**

2. Christians (including preachers) should **abhor evil!** NOTE: Sin is evil. The apostle Paul commanded: **“. . .**

## “PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN”

**Abhor that which is evil: . . .”**  
(Romans 12:9). The NIV says: **“Hate what is evil; . . .”**

3. There is **no** precept (command or statement), approved example or necessary implication in the Scriptures that authorizes Christians (including preachers **unless** preachers are exempted from the principles that govern other people) to encourage unfaithful churches (those proven to be in sin and marked by faithful Christians) by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them. **Note:** if you know where the Scriptures authorize such action please let me hear from you. I stand ready to make correction if I am shown to be wrong.

4. One cannot **abide** in the doctrine of Christ by having **fellowship** with **sin** anywhere at any time, whether it is practiced by individuals or by churches! (See 2 John 9-11 and 2 Cor. 6:14-15).

5. The Scriptures are given **“for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,”** and Christians (including preachers) are to **“reprove and rebuke.”** (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17 and 4:2). Paul rebuked the church at Corinth because of the fornication among them and told them what to do about it. (See 1 Cor. 5). He also reprovved them for abusing the Lord’s Supper in 1 Cor. 11:18-34. **QUESTION:** Instead of rebuking and reprovving, suppose Paul, by his actions, **had encouraged** the church at Corinth to continue to have **fellowship** with the fornicator and to continue to abuse the Lord’s Supper, would he have sinned? Of course, he would have sinned! Suppose Paul had gone to Corinth and preached in a series of meetings, would Paul have dealt with their problems or ignored them? Would he have had **fellowship** with them as they abused the Lord’s Supper? Would he have had fellowship with them if they had continued to **keep company** with the fornicator? Would Paul have eaten with the fornicator because he “didn’t want to get involved with their problems?” Or

because, after all, he “could preach the gospel anywhere?” Or because he “didn’t know who was telling the truth since he had confidence in all of them?” Or because he thought “they both are wrong?”

6. If Christians, and especially preachers, may Scripturally encourage unfaithful churches (those proven to be in sin and marked by faithful Christians) by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them, then they (Christians, and especially preachers) may Scripturally worship, work and have fellowship with:

(a) Churches that donate out of their treasuries to human institutions such as benevolent societies, missionary societies and colleges.

(b) Churches that arrange and provided facilities for and sponsor social projects, entertainment programs and recreational activities.

(c) Churches that are directly involved in secular businesses such as real estate sales, farming, book sales and the manufacture and sale of liquor.

(d) Churches that are composed primarily of Masons, Odd-Fellows and members of the Eastern Star.

(e) Churches that use mechanical instrumental music in the public worship of the church.

(f) Churches that openly advocate false doctrines such as “salvation by faith only,” “once saved, always saved,” “premillennialism,” and “Holy Spirit baptism is for believers today,” etc.

(g) Churches that openly **receive, harbour and defend** thieves, liars, adulterers, drunkards and homosexuals.

7. If **any one** (including a preacher) **has a Scriptural right to encourage**, by his **actions**, an unfaithful church, then why doesn’t one have the right to encourage, by his **actions**, an individual (an alien or a child of God) **in his sin?**

8. If **Christians, by their actions, may Scripturally encourage sin anywhere at any time by any person or any group of persons, THEN GOD APPROVES OF ENCOURAGING SIN!**

(Continued from page 3)

**“PROOF REQUESTED,  
PROOF GIVEN”**

9. Since all informed Christians, no doubt, would say that it is right for Christians, and especially preachers, to encourage **faithful** churches by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them, it should not be too difficult for us to understand, when we meditate upon the aforesated principles, that **IT IS SINFUL FOR CHRISTIANS, AND ESPECIALLY PREACHERS, TO ENCOURAGE UNFAITHFUL CHURCHES** (those proven to be in sin by faithful Christians) **BY WORSHIPPING WITH, WORKING WITH, AND HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH THEM!**

When a person **presumes** to speak that Christians, and especially preachers, may encourage **unfaithful** churches (those proven to be in sin and marked by faithful Christians) by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is making a **false claim** because such is **not** taught in God’s word! **The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!**

We should so **“speak”** and **“do”** as those who will be **judged “by the law**

**of liberty?”** (Cf. James 2:12) **“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God.”** (1 Pet. 4:11).

NOTE: If any of you readers would like for us to give **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view of **any** of the other twenty five things listed in **THE INSTRUCTOR**, Oct., 1983, under **Specific Wickedness**, please let us hear from you soon as to which one (or ones).

— (CRS)

(To be continued)

**CORRECTIONS:** The date for the **SUTTON-THURMON DISCUSSION** in the June, 1984, issue of **THE INSTRUCTOR** should have been **July 10, 12 and 13, 1984** instead of 1983. **ALSO** the date in the second paragraph, first column, page 2 of **THE INSTRUCTOR**, July, 1984 should have been **October, 1983** instead of October, 1984.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

**William Lewis** is scheduled to be with us at **EAST ALBERTVILLE** in a series of gospel meetings the week of October 7-12, 1984. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

— **SENTENCE SERMONS** —

Unbelief in the face of evidence is either stupidity, or sin.

\* \* \* \* \*

God’s power is able to perform what God’s purpose plans.

\* \* \* \* \*

A man who has only money is poor indeed.

\* \* \* \* \*

You may not understand all you read in the Bible, but you can **obey** what you do understand.

\* \* \* \* \*

A stab of conscience is the most painful wound in the world.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1107 Highway 431 South  
Albertville, Alabama 35950