

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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ATTITUDES AND CONSEQUENCES

Most religious practices may be traced to attitudes. Martin Luther announced an attitude toward Scriptures which is yet reaping a harvest of evil and error. It was his persuasion that whatever is not expressly forbidden in the Scriptures may be retained in the church. This was the attitude that largely guided him in formulating the practices which are now honored by those who wear his name. It was in this way, he thought, that the errors of the Catholic Church could be eliminated.

The guiding attitude of those who set their hands to restore the church of our Lord to original purity in all matters was opposite to Luther's. It said we may only practice that which is authorized. The Bible clearly teaches this attitude. We are not to be wise **"above that which is written."** (1 Corinthians 4:6). To **"go onward"** and **"abide not in the doctrine of Christ"** is to be without God and Christ. (2 John 9).

"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." (1 Peter 4:11). Every passage on iniquity affirms the truthfulness of this attitude. That which is iniquitous is that which is done

without law. We need not, then search for a passage to say, **"this is wrong,"** but rather one which authorizes what we do.

The attitude of Luther permeates Protestant sectdom for many practices are found there which are not expressly forbidden, but neither are they authorized. To do them without law or authority is iniquitous. This attitude played a prominent part in the formation of the Christian Church. Those who introduced the instrument and the society for evangelism shouted as they departed from the purity of the New Testament order, "Where does the Bible say not to do it?" Once again we are hearing that cry from brethren who ought to know better. Attitudes are important — they determine our practices and thus have a bearing on our eternal destiny.

— **Connie Adams** in **THE NEWBERN ADMONISHER**, April 28, 1960

SOLOMON SAID: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." (Eccl. 7:29).

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but **trusting** in riches (or loving money) is very dangerous. We must **charge** those who are rich NOT to TRUST in their riches. Riches are "**uncertain.**" They have a way of slipping away from a person. Solomon said: ". . . For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven." (Proverbs 23:5).

PURPOSE OF LABOR

The primary purpose of our labor should **not** be for **worldly** riches ("the meat which perisheth"), but for **eternal** riches ("that meat which endureth unto everlasting life"). Solomon said: "**Labor not to be rich: . . .**" (Prov. 23:4). Jesus said: "**Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: . . .**" (John 6:27).

It is God's will that we labor physically to have to eat (2 Thess. 3:10), to provide for our own (1 Tim. 5:8), to have to give to those who are needy (Eph. 4:28), and to lay-by-in-store on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). However, material blessings (food, drink, clothes, etc.) are temporal and transitory. Our chief aim in life should be to glorify God and thus prepare for eternity. (See 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31; James 2:12).

RICHES CANNOT REDEEM US

In Psalms 49:6-9 we read: "**They that trust in their riches, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him; . . . That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.**"

NOTE: The context seems to suggest that this has reference to physical life. Man cannot take riches and give them to God and redeem his brother from death nor cause his brother to be spared from death.

We learn from 1 Peter 1:18-19 that silver and gold did **not** (nor can they) redeem us from sin. Peter said:

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Editorial . . .

DON'T TRUST IN RICHES

Those who "**trust in their wealth and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches**" are mentioned in Psalms 49:6. In Psalms 52:7 the psalmist said: "**Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.**"

During his personal ministry on earth Jesus warned against trusting in riches when He said to His disciples, "**Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**" (Mark 10:24-25).

In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 the apostle Paul said: "**Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.**"

Obviously there is a danger in **trusting in riches**. Riches are **not** sinful,

DON'T TRUST IN RICHES

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“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were no redeemed with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” NOTE: Riches are “helpless” when it come to the redemption of our physical lives or of our eternal souls! **Don't trust in riches!**

THEY WILL LEAVE YOU OR YOU WILL LEAVE THEM

Since material riches are “**uncertain**” and “**make themselves wings**” and “**fly away as an eagle toward heaven**” we cannot afford to **trust** in them. If riches don't leave the rich, then the rich will “**leave their wealth to others.**” (See Psalms 49:10).

In Luke 12 the rich man left God out of his plans and God said to him: “**Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided?**” (12:20). Verse 21 says: “**So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**”

Remember, if you have riches, **they will leave you or you will leave them! Don't trust in riches!**

TRUST IN THE LIVING GOD

A long time ago Solomon said: “**He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.**” (Prov. 11:28). He also said: “**... whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.**” (Prov. 29:25). The apostle Paul told Timothy to **charge the rich** that they **TRUST IN THE LIVING GOD**, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy. (Cf. 1 Tim. 6:17-19). **Don't trust in riches!** The man who trusts in the Lord is called a **good man** in Psalms 112.

DO GOOD — GOOD WORKS — DISTRIBUTE

Those who are rich should **not ONLY not trust in “uncertain riches, but in**

the living God” but they should **do good, be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.**

If you are rich, you must be willing to share your possessions with others. Since you have more to do with, God demands more of you. You must be **rich in GOOD WORKS and DO GOOD** according to your abilities and opportunities. Do not forget to “**distribute.**” In doing these things you will lay up for yourselves a good foundation against the time to come, that you may lay hold on eternal life.

Brethren, if you have riches, **please use them to the glory of God! Don't trust in your riches!**

Jesus said: “**Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**” (Luke 12:15).

Solomon said: “**Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.**” (Proverbs 11:28).

Jesus said: “**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**” (Mark 8:36-37).

(CRS)

PROFESSIONALISM IN RELIGION

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planting the old-fashioned designation of “**brother.**” Recreation for the young and “**church kitchens**” for the old are a “**must**” if the people are to be held for the Lord. Diligent study, hard work, and earnest prayer and dependence on God are secondary. Again, I repeat, such conditions are not universal, but there are straws in the wind, falling in such directions that one cannot but see the way the wind is blowing.

— **Homer Hailey** in
ANCIENT FAITH IN CONFLICT
and printed in **THINK**, 7/24/60

PROFESSIONALISM IN RELIGION

Professionalism, or trends in that direction, is being detected among us preachers today. This is not a wholesale accusation against preachers or churches. It is simply to point to a dangerous trend. Being a preacher myself, and considering that my foremost work, it would be unbecoming in me to depreciate in any way the wonderful sacrifices and hard work that characterize many of them. However, it appears that in some quarters the requirements for a preacher border on that of good promoters, something like city managers. The city manager is a sort of "spark-plug" to see that the city

goes ahead, is made appealing to outside people with capital, as a place for opportunities in business. He must see that the city makes a good impression and has an appeal to people. There must be visible manifestations of progress if he is to hold his job.

So the preacher of today must spark-plug a big program, one that will attract attention. Numbers at Sunday School and the size of the contribution are given as tokens of progress, and usually receive more emphasis than godliness among the saints. "Doctors" are paraded before the public in the advertising of meetings and regular work, sup-

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SENTENCE SERMONS

It is more difficult for a man to lose his shirt if he keeps his sleeves rolled up.

* * * * *

A happy mind contributes to good health - physically and spiritually.

* * * * *

Your bank book does not reveal your real wealth or worth.

* * * * *

Our courage is tested when we are in the minority.

* * * * *

A small deed is worth more than a big intention.

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