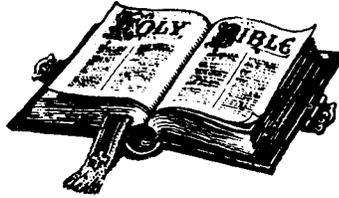


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN?

Although "**fools make a mock at sin**", you can be assured that they will reap "**the wages of sin.**" Paul tells us that "**the wages of sin is death**" in Romans 6:23. What is **your** attitude toward sin? Do you **love** it? Do you **approve** of sin? Are you a **partaker** of other men's sins? Do you **play** with sin? Do you **justify** it? Do you **laugh** at sin? Are you **unable to determine** what sin is? Do you **consider** sin **lightly**? or do you **hate** sin? Do you really "**abhor that which is evil**?"

The Psalmist said: "**I hate vain thoughts. . .**" (Psa. 119:113), "**I hate every false way. . .**" (Psa. 119:104, 128) and "**Ye that fear the Lord, hate evil.**" (Psa. 97:10). We learn from Solomon that "**A righteous man hateth lying. . .**" (Proverbs 13:5) and "**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. . .**" (Proverbs 8:13). God told Israel Through Amos to "**Hate the evil and love the good. . .**" (Amos 5:15). The apostle Paul commands Christians to "**Abhor that which is evil. . .**" (Romans 12:9).

We must **NOT** love sin. Sin must **not** be **overlooked** or taken **lightly**. We must **not** **justify** sin, **countenance** **not** **laugh** at sin. We must **not** **disregard** sin by saying, "That happened a long time ago. You should not bring that up." Neither should we **play** with it nor **argue** for it.

Sin is not a little thing. Neither is it a play thing. It is a poison of the soul. It is very dangerous and deadly. Sin deceives, entangles and binds. Sin crucified the Saviour and will lead to eternal ruin.

If we truly fear the Lord, we will **HATE** evil. If we don't **hate** sin, we do **not** fear God as we should. If we **love** the Lord, we will **hate** evil. If we are righteous, we will **HATE** and **ABHOR** **lying** as well as every other sin.

What is your attitude toward sin? If you do not have the proper attitude toward sin, **YOU WILL BE LOST FOREVER!**

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"The public bathing pools are conditioning plants for people to go naked. If the New Testament means anything when it speaks of "**dressing in modest apparel,**" there is not an excuse a Christian can offer for participating in this form of recreation."

— REX TURNER
in **Sound Doctrine,**

3/25/47

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

WHO IS "OF GOD?"

In 1 John 4:1 John said: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are OF GOD: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." From this passage we learn that we are to try (i.e., test, prove, examine) the spirits to see if they are "OF GOD." Some spirits are "of God" and others are false prophets and thus not "of God." Obviously it is possible for us to determine "whether they are OF GOD."

To be "of God" is to be righteous. If one is "of God" he is influenced by God. He listens to God, he believes God, he obeys God and he teaches the will of God.

Not all who say they are "of God" are "of" him. Jesus declared: "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. . ." (Mt. 7:15-16). "Wolves" may say they are "sheep." They may look like sheep but on close examination one can learn what they really are.

Let us now consider the question: WHO IS "OF GOD?"

1. NOT ALL WHO EXPRESS A DESIRE TO BE. A person may express a desire to be "of God" (i.e., to be a child of God or to be faithful as a child

of God), but may not follow through with true faith and obedience. Consider the rich young ruler in Mt. 19:16-22, Mk. 10:17-22 and Luke 18:18-23 who came running to Jesus and kneeled down and asked him, "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" He expressed a desire to truly be "of God" but he wasn't willing to pay the cost involved. Also consider King Agrippa in Acts 26:24-32 who said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian," but there is no Scriptural evidence that he became one. Expressing a desire to be "of God" does not prove that one is "of God."

2. NOT ALL WHO CLAIM TO BE. The fact that a person claims to be "of God" does not prove that he is "of God." No doubt, the scribes and Pharisees of Matthew 23 claimed to be "of God," but Jesus pointed out their inconsistencies and said they were "full of hypocrisy and iniquity." He also said they were "blind guides," "serpents," "fools," a "generation of vipers" and children "of hell." To be "of God" requires more than a claim.

3. NOT ALL WHO BELIEVE. It is essential that a person believe that there is one God and that Jesus is the Son of God in order to be "of God." (See Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31). However a person may believe and still not be "of God." In John 12:42-43 we learn that many among the chief rulers "believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." NOTE: Since they did not confess Jesus, they were not truly "of God." (See Mt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 John 4:2-3; 1 John 4:15). Not all "believers" are "of God."

James said: "Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble." (2:19). He also said: "Ye see how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." (2:24).

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WHO IS "OF GOD?"

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"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye CONTINUE IN MY WORD, then are ye my disciples in deed: and Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32).

NOTE: Although **faith** is essential, **obedience** is also required in order for a person to be **"of God."**

4. **NOT HE WHO DOES NOT CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH.** The claim to be **"of God"** that some make although they do not confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is **false**. The apostle John said: **"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus is come in the flesh is not of God: . . ."** (1 John 4:3).

5. **NOT HE WHO DOES NOT DO RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Orally professing to be **"of God"** while not doing righteousness does **not** indicate that one is truly **"of God."** (1 John 3:10). To be accepted of God one must **work righteousness**. (See Acts 10:34-35). We learn from 1 John 2:29 that **"every one that doeth righteousness is born of Him."** **One must DO righteousness in order to be righteous.** (See 1 John 3:7).

6. **NOT HE WHO DOES NOT LOVE THE BRETHREN.** Hatred and malice has no place in the heart of a person who claims to be **"of God."** **"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."** (1 John 3:11). John also said: **"... Whosoever doeth righteousness is not OF GOD, neither he that loveth not his brother."** (1 John 3:10). Those who hate their brethren are **in darkness** (1 John 2:11), are **liars** (1 John 4:20), and **murderers** (1 John 3:15). Surely, such people are NOT **"of God."** The apostle Paul admonished: **"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."** (Romans 12:10).

7. **HE WHO CONFESSES THAT**

JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH. The beloved apostle declared: **"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is OF GOD: . . ."** (1 John 4:2-3). To be **"of God"** it is imperative that one confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. To deny that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is to deny that the Saviour died for our sins and arose the third day from the dead. To deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is the spirit of anti-Christ.

8. **HE WHO HEARS GOD'S WORD.** Millions of people claim to be **"of God"** but they do **not hear God's Word**. Jesus said: **"He that is OF GOD HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are NOT OF GOD."** (John 8:47). In order for one to **hear God**, he **must hear** the inspired writers of the New Testament. John, an inspired writer, said: **"We are OF GOD: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not OF GOD heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."** (1 John 4:6).

Merely giving "lip service" to hearing God's word is not sufficient. A person must **"listen"** to **everything** that God's word teaches. **Respect** must be shown for **everything** that inspired men have written. To hear inspired men of God is to hear Christ and thus to hear God.

Referring to the prophet that Moses said God would raise up who would be like unto Moses, Peter declared: **"... Him shall ye HEAR IN ALL THINGS whatsoever he shall say unto you."** (See Acts 3:19-26). To be **"of God"** we must **hear** God's word!

9. **HE WHO DOES GOOD.** To be **"of God"** **one must do good**. John said: **"Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that DOETH GOOD IS OF GOD: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God."** (3 John 11). Here we see **good** and **evil** contrasted. In Amos 5:15 Israel was told to **"Hate the evil, and love**

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the good, . . ." Isaiah 5:20 says "**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; . . .**" Paul urged: "**Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.**" (Rom. 12:9).

Since it is possible to call evil good, and good evil, we must give diligence as we search the Scriptures to determine by **God's principles of truth** what is good and what is evil. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2:12).

To put it succinctly, to be "**of God**" a person must **hear, believe** and **obey** the Lord Jesus Christ. (See John 5:24; 3:36; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 4:2; Mt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10; Hebrews 5:8-9).

When we stand before Christ in judg-

ment, only those who are "**of God**" will be told to "**Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**" (See Mt. 25:31-46). Those who are not "**of God**" will be told to "**Depart from me. . .**"

Are YOU "**of God**?" Do you **desire** to be "**of God**?" Are you willing to hear God? **Everything** that Jesus said? Are you willing to **believe** God? Even if it is contrary to popular opinion and practice? Are you willing to **obey** God? Even if it requires self-denial and sacrifice? What if you are persecuted? If you are willing to "pay the cost" involved in being "**of God**" you should begin NOW to do so! (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Anger is a wind that can blow out the lamp of the mind.

* * * * *

Repeating hearsay and gossip is **not** a candid examination of situations and facts.

* * * * *

Many people would be better off with fewer dollars and more sense.

* * * * *

Christians have no right to take vacations from being spiritual.

* * * * *

Do not fear those who can kill only the body. Fear God who is able to destroy both body and soul in hell.

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