

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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THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

"Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable to teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

One of the greatest needs of this, or any other, generation is for people to develop and cultivate proper respect for the Scriptures as being all-sufficient in spiritual matters. In almost every generation of time since Pentecost, there have been those who were unwilling to be satisfied with the Scriptures and have sought to add superfluous things to them.

In the first century, there were those Judaizing teachers who taught that man is saved by the gospel, but only when certain parts of the Old Testament law were added to it. (Acts 15:1). The consequences of this, if it were true, would be to cast a very serious reflection on the veracity and integrity of the gospel. So, through the books of Romans and Galatians, Paul argued to prove the sufficiency of the gospel to save man from his sins. (Rom. 1:16-17; Gal. 4:21-31).

In those early generations following the first century, there were those who became dissatisfied with the simple congregational organization of God's people (Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5), so, they began adding their own human inventions in organization. Today, centuries later, the monstrous Goliath of the Ro-

man Catholic hierarchy threatens the entire world as the result of that early dissatisfaction with the sufficiency of God's Word.

Also in those early centuries following the establishment of God's kingdom, there were those who were dissatisfied with the sufficiency of the Scriptures with respect to the simple worship of the New Testament church. Being dissatisfied with the Scriptures, efforts were made to make the worship of the church as pleasing as possible to man's physical senses; hence, the addition of machines of music and such like to worship. Such reduces worship to mere carnality, rather than the spiritual obedience which is required by the Scriptures. (John 4:24).

The same problem exists among brethren in our own generation. It appears that there will always be those who have not learned from the tragic mistakes of the past. In our times, there are those, who not being satisfied with the sufficiency of the Scriptures with reference to the work of the church, would have the church take over almost everything from the local Boy Scouts to the United Nations. The Scriptures, being sufficient, allow the church a three-fold work: Evangelism (Eph. 3:10); self-edification (Eph. 4:16; and benevolence (I Cor. 16:1). Any addition to these, or any corruption or abuse of these in organization or purpose, is to

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Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Ala.

Editorial . . .

LYING

The word LYING suggests the idea of DECEIVING, or UTTERING A FALSEHOOD, or BEARING FALSE WITNESS. The devil is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44). He "abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him." Lying is the first sin that is recorded after the church was established on the day of Pentecost. Ananias was guilty of lying. (See Acts 5:1-11). Under the Old Testament economy, some of the Israelites, although they were children of God, lied unto God with their tongues. (See Psa. 78:36). There were some who said: "we have made lies our refuge." (Isa. 28:15).

Let us now consider some who have lied or who will lie. Soloman said: "A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies." (Prov. 14:5). He further said that "a deceitful witness speaketh lies" in Prov. 14:25. Isaiah records the fact that God's people at one time was "a rebellious people, LYING children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits." (Isa. 30:9-10). We can learn from Jeremiah's writings that Hananiah was not sent by the Lord but that he taught rebellion against the Lord by making the people trust in a lie. (See Jer. 28: 15-16).

Jeremiah said "Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He sayeth. Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the Lord, and do tell them, and cause my people TO ERR BY THEIR LIES, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the Lord." (Jer. 23:31-32). Rev. 3:9 describes some who said they were Jews but were not, hence they were liars! They belonged to the synagogue of Satan! There was an old prophet that spake unto the man of God of Judah in 1 Kings 13, but we are told: "BUT HE LIED UNTO HIM" in verse 18, although he claimed to be a prophet of God, declaring God's message.

The sin of lying has been a very common sin throughout the history of man. Many so-called Christians are afflicted with this sin. Those who speak lies in hypocrisy are really serving the cause of Satan. We need to constantly keep in mind the fact that we will give an account of everything that we say, as well as what we do. There are many members of the church, even some preachers, who will lie about others when they disagree with them on some matter. If you misrepresent someone, regardless of the cause you claim to espouse, YOU ARE GUILTY OF LYING AND WILL GIVE ACCOUNT OF IT IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT!

Soloman tells us in Prov. 6:17-19 that God hates a false witness that SPEAK-ETH LIES. The psalmist, in speaking to God in Psa. 119:163 said: "I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love." What should be our attitude toward LYING? Soloman said: "A righteous man hateth LYING." (Prov. 13:5). Do you hate LYING? The apostle Paul told the Colossians to "lie not one to another." (Col. 3:9). James admonishes Christians to lie not against the truth. We have an obligation to NOT believe a lie as well as to not tell a lie! Some will believe a lie and be damned because of it.

We read in Prov. 19:22 that a poor man is better than a liar. Are you guilty of lying? Don't lie about anything because "All liars shall have their part

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VISITING

Many false ideas have grown up in the church regarding "visiting". Some have the idea that "visiting" is exclusively the work of the preacher; that God has laid this responsibility upon him and that it is part of his work as a preacher. Still others have the idea that the preacher must not only visit all the sick and shut-ins, but he must constantly visit all the members of the church and beg them to attend all the services of the church. He is expected to make his appearance several times a week in all the rooms of all the local hospitals. Such ideas place visiting entirely on a professional basis and make the preacher a professional visitor and "door bell ringer." Not only is such professionalism unscriptural, but it takes all the genuine spirit of Christ out of true religion.

In the first place, visiting the sick is NOT the work of a gospel preacher. Preachers are commanded to do the work of an evangelist. New Testament preachers and teachers taught "publicly and from house to house." Nowhere in the New Testament do we find where visiting the sick is part of the work of preaching the gospel. Such ideas are borrowed from denominationalism where "pastors" do little more than make pastoral calls on the members. We do NOT mean by these things that preachers are not to visit the sick and others who need help and encouragement. Matthew 25:30 and James 1:27 apply to preachers as well as to all Christians. Helping those in need is a Christian duty that belongs to all Christians, not exclusively to one group. Preachers who do not fulfill their duty are unfaithful to God. The same is true of all other Christians. It is the duty of gospel preachers to preach the word, not only publicly but as opportunity affords. It is also the duty of every other Christian to teach as he has opportunity, and to "do good to all men." Let all of us be more diligent in visiting and helping those who are in need. If you have neglected this duty, see that you neglect it no longer. — Central Bulletin via Gospel Digest.

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in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." (Rev. 21:8).

HEAR THE GOSPEL OVER WBSA!

Monday thru Friday at 11:15 AM
1300 on the Dial.

SPEAKER: Carrol R. Sutton
WE CHALLENGE YOU TO LISTEN!

DANCING

Dancing has always been on the questionable list. It is bred of evil and bears the fruits of wickedness. Some of us are so intent on pushing our children into the "social circle" limelight that we are completely ignoring the influence and reputation we are forcing upon the Lord's body. Our children's names are appearing in the society columns of the newspaper along with the socially minded group, but we are with each additional such practice dragging down the reputation of the church. Brethren, when will we ever learn that such is wrong?

I have been a young man once myself, even in my teens, with the same strong impulses and desires that characterize all youth. But I have never deprived myself of happiness or robbed the church of her good reputation by engaging in such unnecessary evil. Face it, there are many wholesome entertainments left for youth that will satisfy its yen for happiness without engaging in the evils of the modern dance.
—James Falkner in the Grant St. Bulletin.

Schedule Of Services

EACH LORD'S DAY:

BIBLE STUDY 10:00 AM
WORSHIP 11:00 AM
WORSHIP 6:00 PM

EACH WEDNESDAY:

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!
BRING OTHERS!**

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cast serious reflection on the integrity of God and the sufficiency of the Scriptures.

The Scriptures are sufficient to accomplish God's purpose for man's spiritual welfare. Paul said they are able to make the man of God complete and furnish him completely unto every good work. In their uncorrupted purity, they are able to save our souls. (Jas. 1:21). Therefore, it becomes absolutely essential that we become thoroughly familiar with the Scriptures and commit our lives to the purpose of obeying their precepts and commandments, being completely satisfied with their sufficiency; refusing to add to, subtract from, or change them in any way, manner, or form. Our present spiritual welfare, and our eternal destiny, rest upon our willingness to do just that.
—Charles L. Morton in "The Contender".

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Sentence Sermons

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

Instead of praying for lighter loads, Christians should pray for greater strength.

We should not "fertilize" wild oats.

After all is said and done, more is said than done.

As scarce as TRUTH is, the supply has always exceeded the demand.

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