

# 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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## TRUE WORSHIP

Man was created to glorify God. (Isa. 43:7). One of the ways in which God is glorified by man is through worship. But in order for worship to glorify God it must be rendered according to God's will. If our worship is according to His will then it will:

**1. BE THE RIGHT KIND.** There are different kinds of worship, but only the right kind will do. The right kind of worship is true worship. This is worship which is rendered by true disciples unto God "in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24). Ignorant worship, that which is rendered in ignorance of God's will, is unacceptable. (Acts 17:23, 30). Will-worship also is wrong. (Col. 2:20-22). And hypocritical worship is displeasing to God. (Matt. 6:5). Only **true worship** finds favor with Him.

**2. HAVE THE RIGHT OBJECT.** Worship is reverence paid to deity. What, or whom, shall we worship? We are forbidden to worship any man. (Acts 10:26). Angels are not to be worshipped. (Rev. 22:8-9). It is also wrong to worship the devil, Idolatry, in whatever form it takes, is condemned. (1 John 5:21). Jesus said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." (Matt. 4:9-10). True worship always has God and Him **alone** as the object of its devotion.

**3. BE RENDERED IN THE RIGHT MANNER.** The acts of worship must be authorized by the Word of the Lord, not devised by human wisdom. God has in this dispensation authorized five acts of worship by which He is to be glorified. Christians are to worship God by observing the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day, (Acts 20:7), by singing praises unto Him, (Eph. 5:19), by praying, (Acts 2:42), by giving to support His work, (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and by studying His Word. (Acts 2:42). Whatever is more than this is not of faith and therefore unacceptable to God. (2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17). We are warned not to go beyond the teaching of Christ, (2 John 9).

**4. BE RENDERED WITH THE RIGHT SPIRIT.** "In spirit" (John 4:24) means with the heart, or from the inner man. The right acts of worship directed to God, the right object, but with the wrong attitude of heart would make one's worship unacceptable. True worship must be rendered with reverence and awe, (Heb. 12:28), in knowledge and understanding, (Rom. 10:1-2; 1 Cor. 14:15), by faith, (2 Cor. 5:7), and in love. (Gal. 5:6).

Just anything will not do in worship

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## Editorial . . .

### *The Wiles of the Devil* (NO. 8)

"That old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan" is a deceiver. He seduces and thus leads astray all who fall victim to his schemes. Unless we are sober-minded and properly equipped with "the whole armour of God" we will not "be able to stand against the WILES OF THE DEVIL." (See Eph. 6:10-18).

In our previous studies in this series, we have considered the following "wiles of the Devil: "WORLDLY WISDOM, THE LOVE OF MONEY, FALSE DOCTRINES, LYING, FLATTERY, IGNORANCE, HYPOCRISY, PRIDE, MURMURING, EVIL SURMISINGS AND BACKBITING. Let us now consider the "WILE OF THE DEVIL" called

**JESTING.** Among the things listed by Paul in Ephesians 5:3-5 "**which are not convenient**" i.e., not fitting or becoming is the sin of JESTING. The idea of "**scurrility, ribaldry, low jesting**" is involved in the word translated "**jesting**" according to THAYER'S LEXICON, page 263. It carries the idea of "**coarse jesting**" according to VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS, Vol. II, page 274. In other words, the telling of low, coarse,

vile, obscene, vulgar jokes and the use of low, coarse, abusive, vulgar speech in other ways are sinful. If a person upholds or approves of such speech whether he actually engages in such himself, he becomes a partaker in other men's sins.

The telling of filthy jokes is a common practice among many who claim to be Christians. If Satan can use "**jesting**" to seduce or deceive people (and he can) he will. If he can not get a person to actually tell coarse, obscene or vulgar jokes, he will encourage that person to "laugh" when others peddle their filth. So, Satan seduces people to "**jest**" or to listen and laugh at "**jest**s." Those "who have pleasure in them" that commit things "worthy of death" are also "worthy of death." (See Romans 1:28-32).

In Ephesians 4:29 Paul says: "**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of youth mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**" In writing "to the saints and faithful brethren" at Colosse, Paul urged them to "**put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, FILTHY COMMUNICATION OUT OF YOUTH MOUTH.**" (Col. 3:8).

.. "**Lasciviousness**" is listed in Galatians 5:19-21 as one of "**the works of the flesh**" and "**wantonness**" is mentioned in Romans 13:13 and Christians are urged not to "**walk in**" such! Anything that is "lewd" or "**lustful**" is "**lascivious**" or "**wanton**." In commenting on "**wanton (acts or) manners**" THAYER says "**as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.**" (THAYER'S LEXICON, page 79-80). "**Jesting**", i.e., low, coarse, obscene, vile, vulgar jesting, is sinful! It is lasciviousness (or wantonness) because it produces or tends to produce lewd or lustful thoughts and emotions. The Devil uses this WILE to deceive many. Often times he will say, "Oh, there's no harm in having a little fun since we all are adults." Or he may say, "Well, after all, everybody does it."

Christians are to be examples IN SPEECH as well as IN MANNER OF LIFE. (See 1 Tim. 4:12). We should "re-

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# "TRYING OUT"

A preacher "trying out" for a "place," was given the third degree. "Have you any bad personal habits? Do you live within your income? How many 'calls' will you make each week? What do you believe about 'hats'?" How much preparation do you put into each sermon? Will your children put 'church' ahead of school activities? Etc., etc."

Well, a church has the right to know something about the preacher they plan to support. Even his personal habits may greatly affect his work; although I doubt that such questions will produce an accurate picture. I think he should answer their questions as best he can — recognizing their right of investigation, in the light of the proposed partnership.

And then he should ask them a few questions. "Why did the last preacher move from here? Do you have any chronic 'grippers' and if so what are you doing to discipline them? Does the present contribution fairly represent your financial strength? If not, why not? How firmly do you back, with personal labor and attendance, each gospel meeting? What percentage of the members prepare their lessons for the Sunday and Wednesday Bible classes? Will your social life, and that of your children, reflect favorably upon the cause of Christ in this community? How concerned are you for lost souls, and how do you show this concern?"

I doubt that these questions will produce a complete picture, but they certainly will upset a business meeting.

"Professionalism" is not confined to preachers; it extends to congregation which look upon themselves as little more than worshipping societies and employers of "church workers." We see "professional" churches about as often as we see "professional" preachers — and in about the same places.

The collective role of saints in a local church does not remove their individual responsibilities. The "communication" of the taught to the teacher is an "association," a "sharing with," "party to" and "implicated in" arrangement, whether the funds come from the individual or the church. (Gal. 6:6; Phil.

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## DO YOU WANT TO BE CHARMING?

Do you want to be charming? Truly charming? If so, adorn your lips with truth and grace; your voice with prayer and kindness; your eyes with compassion and mercy, your hands with works of faith and labor of love; your figure with uprightness and holiness and your heart with love and purity.

(CRS)

(Continued from left column)

## TRYING OUT

4:15). When we learn that the preacher is just another member of the church, with the feelings and weaknesses of other saints, but one whom we support because we recognize ability and talent **we wish to fellowship** in uninterrupted work for the Lord; then these "trials" and "places" and unnecessary "moves" will cease.

—Robert Turner

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## TRUE WORSHIP

to God. God is glorified in our worship only when the worship we render is prescribed by Him. Our worship, therefore, must be the right kind, be directed to the right person — God, be offered in the right manner and with the right spirit. What about **your** worship? Does it really glorify God, or is it according to your own standard? Make an honest investigation!

—Earl Kimbrough in SWORD AND SHIELD

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## THE WILES OF THE DEVIL

**frain**" our tongues from evil and our "lips that they speak no guile." (See 1 Pet. 3:10-11). Our lights should so shine that others will see our "good works" and be influenced by us to "glorify" our Father which is in heaven. (See Matthew 5:14-16).

Satan may influence others to call you a "**prude**" if your speech is always pure and if you refuse to listen to and laugh at filthy talk. However, you should NOT "give place to the Devil." (CRS)

# Correction Is Greivous

“Correction is greivous unto him that forsaketh the way . . .” (Prov. 5:10). Few people are able to accept correction graciously. Our first inclination is always to justify self. This no doubt accounts for the bad spirit which is so manifest in brethren who have “forsaken the way” of the Lord when one attempts to correct them.

The individual who is completely confident as to the truth of his position rarely reacts viciously when his position is assailed. He knows that the truth will vindicate his stand, hence there is no necessity for violent emotional reactions. When men react violently and angrily to an expression of a belief opposite to their own, it is reasonably certain they have “forsaken the way.”

—James W. Adams

# What Were They Told?

In the first century when sinners were convicted of their sins and obviously believed that “that same Jesus whom” they had “crucified” had been made “both Lord and Christ”, they said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, WHAT SHALL WE DO?” They were not told to “come to the altar and pray through.” They were told by the apostle Peter to “**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” (Acts 2:38). This is what should be told believing sinners today!

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

Although it has been several months since a promise to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE was made by the West Hobbs St., brethren in Athens, a date has not been set by them.

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# Sentence Sermons

You can not sling mud without losing ground.

It isn't your position, but your disposition that determines your happiness.

Some people believe everything that is whispered to them.

The best way to save face is to keep the lower end of it closed.

Some people are so narrow-minded that they have to stack their prejudices vertically.

Just as one dog can start all the dogs around to barking, so one gossip can start a whole group of people to gossiping.

The man who deserts truth in trifles cannot be trusted in matters of importance.

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