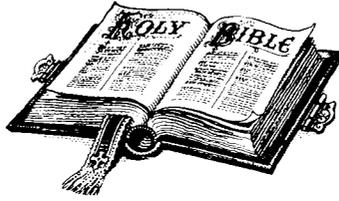


THE INSTRUCTOR



“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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“SHOW ME WHERE THE BIBLE EVEN MENTIONS IT”

The danger of preachers becoming compromisers, soft-soapers and men-pleasers is increased by the growing number of church members who wish to be left alone in their worldly living. When a preacher does have the courage to stand up and reprove brethren for taking part in worldly amusements, or swearing allegiance to some secret order, or holding on to unnecessary and harmful habits of life, brethren who are guilty of those things often rise up and demand indignantly “Show me where the Bible even mentions it!” In so doing they put themselves in the position of arguing that **a thing which is not specifically mentioned as sinful must be right!**

We must agree that the Bible does not mention moving pictures, tobacco, beer, bridge playing, parlor dancing, (unless Salome danced before Herod in the parlor), but if this is the argument made, two can play at this game. **WHERE DOES THE BIBLE MENTION:**

1. Whiskey, gin, ale, “hooch,” “moonshine,” or “white mule”; yet it condemns drunkenness! **Editor’s note:** Drunkenness is condemned in such passages as Luke 21:34; 1 Cor. 6:9-11 and Gal. 5:19-21. In fact, even social drinking is condemned under “**banquetings**” in 1 Peter 4:3.

2. Poker, dice, roulette, bingo; yet it condemns defrauding! Any gambling is

defrauding. **Editor’s note:** Defrauding is condemned in 1 Cor. 6:7-8. The principle found in Luke 6:31 condemns gambling!

3. Suicide, abortion, infanticide, patricide, fratricide, matricide, homicide, assassination, bush-whacking; yet it condemns murder. **Editor’s note:** Murders are listed in Gal. 5:19-21 as a work of the flesh!

4. Bar-room, “honky-tonk”, cocktail-lounge, road house; yet it condemns evil companionships! **Editor’s note:** Yes it does in 1 Cor. 15:33.

5. Virginia reel, strip-tease, jitterbug, rumba; yet it condemns revellings and indecency! **Editor’s note:** Yes, it does in Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Tim. 2:9 and 1 Tim. 4:12.

6. Necking, petting, promiscuity, violation of the age of consent, or rape; yet it condemns fornication! **Editor’s note:** Yes, it does in Gal. 5:19-21 as well as other passages.

If a sin appears under another name, how can Christians know it is sinful?

“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” (Heb. 5:13-14).

— J. E. Nowlin
in THE GOSPEL ADVERTISER,
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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO KNOW GOD?

Many people do not know God. Unless we do know God, we have no hope of eternal salvation. All of us should desire to know Him. Do you know God? Do you know what it means to know Him? Let us now consider the question: "What does it mean to know God?"

1. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO KNOW (BELIEVE CONFIDENTLY) THAT GOD IS, AND THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD. The Hebrew writer says: "For without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (11:6). We learn from John 20:30-31 that Jesus did many other signs other than those recorded in the book of John, but "these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name."

To know God is to recognize, not only the existence of God, but also to recognize Him as creator of heaven and earth and all things therein. It is also to believe that God rewards those "who diligently seek Him." It is to believe that Jesus Christ is truly the Son of God and the Saviour of man. (See John 3:16-18).

Atheists deny the existence of God while existing by the power of God.

Modernists deny the Deity of Jesus Christ while claiming that He was "a good man." Neither atheists nor modernists know God. Do you?

2. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF GOD THAT HE IS. What kind of God is the God of Scriptures?

Negatively, "God is not a man, that He should lie . . ." (Numbers 23:19). We make a tragic mistake if and when we assume that God is "altogether such an one" as we are. (See Psalms 50:16-23).

The apostle Peter told Cornelius that ". . . God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted of Him." Acts 10:34-35).

Although many religious folks attribute their confusion and disorderly services to "the moving of the Spirit," we should always keep in mind that Paul said; "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." (see 1 Cor. 14:33). He also said: "Let all things be decently and in order." (1 Cor. 14:40).

The Hebrew writer tells us that ". . . God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name." (Hebrews 6:10).

Positively, "God is a Spirit." He does not have "flesh and bones." (see and read carefully John 4:24 and Luke 24:39).

God is "holy." (See 1 Peter 1:16). God will not countenance sin and He will not dwell where sin is.

We should always keep in mind that ". . . God is faithful," although man is fickle. (See 1 Cor. 1:9 and 10:13).

Let us never forget that "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8).

The Hebrew writer tells us that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31). This is true because "our God is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29).

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In order to know and appreciate God as we should we must behold **“the goodness and the severity of God.”** (See Romans 11:22).

You can not know God unless you know what kind of God He is. Do you know? You can know only by learning what God has revealed in the Scriptures.

3. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO APPROVE OF GOD AND WHAT GOD DOES. As creatures, we did not create God, but He created us. We must approve of God as the Creator of heaven and earth and all things that are therein. (See Genesis 1:1-27; 2:7; Acts 17:24-29 and Zech.12:1). We must also recognize that God is omnipotent (Rev. 19:6), all wise, invisible, eternal and true. (See 1 Tim. 1:17). We must also approve of it.

As men and women, we must approve of what God has done, is doing and will do. God has always condemned sin. He now condemns sin. God has always punished sin and will do so in the future. God demands of us that we glorify Him in all that we do. (See 1 Cor. 6:19-20 and 10:31). In order to glorify Him we must become His children and then worship and serve Him only. (See Gal. 3:26-27; John 3:5; Matt. 4:10; 6:24 and John 4:24). We must seek Him and His kingdom first! (See Matt. 6:33).

We learn from Hebrews 12:5-11 that the Lord chastens whom He loves. We must have the proper attitude toward chastisements. We must approve of the fact that God has the right to demand of us complete submission to and compliance with His will. **Do you approve of God's will for man? If not, you do not know God!**

4. TO KNOW GOD ALSO MEANS TO RECOGNIZE WHAT GOD SAYS AND APPROVE OF IT BY DOING WHAT GOD SAYS! Some people do not recognize what God says or if they do, they do not approve of it by doing what He says. In 1 John 2:3-5 we read: **“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we**

keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we ARE IN Him.” The only way that I can know that I know God is **by keeping His commandments!** To know God; we must love Him.” (See 1 John 3:7-8 and 1 John 5:3).

Some people profess to **“know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”** (Titus 1:16). Disobedience show that one does not know God. If you hear and receive what the apostles taught, then you know God. If you do not, then you don't know God! (See 1 John 4:6).

Do you approve of what God teaches through the apostles in Acts 2:38; Ephesians 4:4-6; Romans 12:1-2 and in 2 Thess.3:6? What about in 2 Thess. 3:10? Do you approve of what Jesus says in Mark 16:15-16; John 4:24 and Matthew 6:33? What about what Jesus said in Matthew 15:7-9 and Matthew 15:13? If you do not accept **all** of the truth as revealed in the New Testament of the Lord Jesus Christ, you do **not** know God!

5. TO KNOW GOD MEANS TO BE KNOWN OF GOD AND TO HAVE GOD'S APPROVAL! Paul said: **“Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?”** (Galatians 4:8-9).

To know God is to have God's approval. God **“knows the way of the righteous.”** (See Psalms 1:6). He **knows, “them that are His.”** (See 2 Timothy 2:19) There are some who will never have God's approval. In judgment the Lord will say to them: **“... I never knew you.”** (See Matthew 7:21-

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23). There will be others whom the Lord at one time knew but in judgment He will say unto them, “. . . I know you not.” (See Matthew 25: 1-13).

In order for you to be saved eternally, **you must know God, and God must know you!** You do not know God unless God knows you! If you do not know God in the day of judgment, **you will stand without excuse!**

(CRS)

BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT

The subversive teaching (Gal. 1:6-7; 4:10-11) of those teachers who followed Paul in Galatia was very effective. (Gal. 4:17). Although it was right to be zealously affected by teaching (v. 18) these Galatians had made the mistake of accepting error. One must have faith in what he does for God, or it will not please God and hence will be sin. (Heb. 11:6; Romans 14:23). But faith in what one does must be based on what God has said in His word, and not merely on what the preacher says. If the preacher preaches the Bible, one's faith can be based on both. In order to know when the preacher preaches God's word, it is necessary to listen carefully to what he says, study the Bible carefully and then compare the two.

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Because people are deeply affected by a teaching does not prove that the teaching is right. Many people believed strongly in Nazi-ism and were zealous in promoting it, but that did not make it right. Paul was a zealous persecutor of Christians, doing it in all good conscience, (Acts 22:3-4; 23:1; 26:9-11; Gal. 1:14), but that did not make it right.

The division in the religious world today proves that many are wrong. Two people cannot differ about what the truth on a subject is and both be right. They may misunderstand each other and both be right, but if there is a real difference both cannot be right. Both may be right. Both may be wrong.

Of course there are honest and sincere people in all churches. Honesty and sincerity are not enough. If so, Paul had no reason to criticize the Galatians, and he himself made a foolish sacrifice when he became a Christian. Nothing, not even listening to good preaching, can take the place of studying God's word and following it.

—Elam B. Kuykendall in

GOSPEL DIGEST, December, 1956

Editor's note: God will hold each of us responsible for our actions. He expects us to “**give diligence**” in our search for the truth. We must have a “**love of the truth.**” We must “**hunger and thirst after righteousness.**” We must “**prove all things**” and “**hold fast to that which is good.**”

Sentence Sermons

Too many Christians want to be “pillows” but the Lord demands that we be “pillars.”

People are funny—everyone wants to live a long time, but no one wants to get old.

Instead of being “Latter Day Saints,” why not be **every day saints?**

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