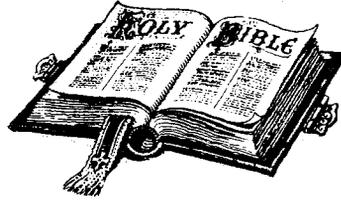


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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CAN THE CHURCH SAVE YOU?

In an effort to minimize the importance of the church, some people say, **"the church can not save you."** Usually people who make this statement mean that the church is not essential to salvation: that a person may be saved, live right and go to heaven without ever being in the church of Jesus Christ. But is this so? Is this really what the Scriptures teach?

If by "the church" a person means a "denomination", then we must agree that a denomination is **not** essential to being saved and going to heaven. In fact, a denomination is not only **NON-ESSENTIAL** to salvation, but a person **can not be saved IN A DENOMINATION!** Those who foster and encourage denominationalism are guilty of sin (or wickedness). Jesus Christ warned saying: **"Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up."** (Matthew 15:9).

It is certainly true that Jesus Christ, **not** the church, is the Saviour. However, the church is composed of the saved. Acts 2:47 tells us that **". . . the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."** Our blessed Lord said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:16). It is **impossible** for a person to be saved and not be added to the Lord's church. After a person is added to the Lord's church he may join some denominational body, but if he does, he

does so without authority and thus works iniquity in so doing.

THE CHURCH IS IMPORTANT

1. The church was in God's eternal purpose. (See Ephesians 3:10-11).

2. Jesus Christ promised to build the church. (See Matthew 16:18).

3. Jesus Christ loved the church and purchased it with His precious blood. (See Ephesians 5:25-27; Acts 20:28).

4. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church. (See 1 Corinthians 3:11).

5. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. (See Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-12).

6. Reconciliation of sinners to God is in the body, which is the church. (See Ephesians 2:14-16).

7. The manifold wisdom of God is made known by the church. (See Ephesians 3:10).

8. God is glorified in the church. (See Ephesians 3:21).

9. Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the church. (See Ephesians 5:23).

10. The kingdom, which is the church, will be delivered up to God at the end of time. (See 1 Corinthians 15:23-24).

Friends, you can **not** belittle the church of Christ without belittling Jesus Christ. You can **not** be saved by Jesus Christ and remain outside of His church. You can **not** be saved eternally separate and apart from the church!

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 9)

In our article last month we discussed the **false** concept that the "the salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace." The fact that such a doctrine is advocated by some apostates from the faith such as Edward Fudge, as well as a number of denominational churches does **not** justify such nor remove the fact that *such teaching is false* and **all who advocate such as false teachers!**

Those who advocate that "salvation is by grace alone" are obligated to **prove** by the Scriptures that such teaching is true. Merely assuming and asserting such doctrine does **not** make it so! The fact that someone either quotes or refers to some Scriptures that mention salvation and grace does **not** prove that it is so. We hereby **challenge** those who advocate the doctrine that "the salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace" to prove by God's Book that such teaching is true! Will anyone attempt such a task?

Number five is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under "Specific Wickedness" for which Scriptural proof for the opposite view (than that stated in # 5) has been requested by some of our readers. It reads as follows:

"5. The Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us."

COMMENTS: Catholics, Mormons and a large number of other religionists advocate the idea that "the Scrip-

tures are not sufficient to guide us." It has been my observation through the years that people (with whom I am familiar) who believe that the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us do **not** show much, if any, respect for what the Scriptures say.

I hereby state that the above statement is **false** and I give the following as evidence (proof) that such is the case.

1. The apostle Paul declared that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, THROUGHLY FURNISHED UNTO ALL GOOD WORKS." (1 Timothy 3:16-17).

2. The apostle Peter said: "*According as His divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*" (2 Peter 1:3).

3. James, inspired of God, said: "**But whoso looketh into the PERFECT LAW OF LIBERTY, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**" (James 1:25).

4. The word of God gives light and understanding, (see Psalms 119:130), produces faith, (see Romans 10:17), saves, (see James 1:21; 1 Peter 1:22-25), and will judge us in the last day (see John 12:48; Rom. 2:15; Revelation 20:12).

5. James 2:12 says; "**So speak ye and so do, as they that SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY.**"

6. Jude said: "**Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for THE FAITH WHICH WAS ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS.**" (Jude 3).

7. 2 John 9-11 says: "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If**

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**"PROOF REQUESTED,
PROOF GIVEN"**

there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

8. Under the Old Testament, the people were charged not to add to nor take from God's Word. Read the following passages:

A. Deuteronomy 4:2 says: "**Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.**"

B. Deuteronomy 12:32 says: "**What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.**"

C. Proverbs 30:5-6 says: "**Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**"

D. Hear this warning: Deuteronomy 18:20 says: "**But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.**"

9. Revelation 22:18-19 says: "**For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, IF ANY MAN SHALL ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: AND IF ANY MAN SHALL TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THE BOOK OF THIS PROPHECY, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.**"

10. The apostle Paul warned: "**But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, IF ANY MAN PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL UNTO YOU than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**"

Here are some of the CONSEQUENCES if the doctrine that "the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us" is true:

1. The Scriptures are false because the claim is made in the Scriptures that they are perfect and complete and thus sufficient for all of our spiritual needs. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:25; 2:12; 1:21; Jude 3; 2 John 9). **NOTE: If the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us, all of these Scriptures are false.**

2. We can not depend on what the Scriptures say. **NOTE: If they are not true when they claim to be perfect and complete, then they simply are not to be relied on.**

3. If they are not sufficient to guide us, then they do not furnish the man of God unto every good work, as they claim to do. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

4. That which is not sufficient to guide us will judge us in the last day! (See John 12:48; Romans 2:15 and Revelation 20:12).

5. We should follow that which is not sufficient to guide us.

6. God inspired a Book that will judge us in the last day, but that Book is not sufficient to guide us.

When we consider all of God's Word we must conclude that God's Word does not teach "the insufficiency of the Scriptures to guide us. Unquestionably it teaches that the Scriptures ARE sufficient to guide us!

When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that "the Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us" in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is teaching false doctrine because such is not taught in the pages of God's Book! The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness! A long time ago the prophet Isaiah warned: "**Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter.**" (Isaiah 5:20).

We should so "speak" and so "do" as those who will be judged "by the law of liberty." (See James 2:12). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."

(CRS)

(To be continued)

GUY N. WOODS
— ANOTHER QUOTE

“In line with the fact that our lesson today deals with the autonomy of the church, we point out that the contribution here alluded to was raised wholly without the high pressure organizational methods characteristic of today. There was no organization at all; the churches, in their own capacity, raised the funds, and they were gathered by brethren specially appointed for the purpose. This is the Lord’s method of raising money, and it will suffice in any case. **There is no place for charitable organizations in the work of the New Testament church. It is the only charitable organization that the Lord authorizes or that is needed to do the work the Lord expects His people today to do . . .**” (Editor’s note: Emphasis mine).

—Guy N. Woods in **Teacher’s ANNUAL LESSON COMMENTARY on BIBLE SCHOOL LESSONS**, 1946, p. 340.

J. L. SEWELL ON WAR

Brother Sewell was asked to make speeches throughout the country to enlist volunteers for the war between the states. He replied as follows:

“Gentlemen, when I get to believe that Jesus Christ is an impostor, the New Testament a fable, and the Christian religion a fraud, then, perhaps, I might entertain your proposition; but as long as I believe that Jesus Christ is Divine, the New Testament the Word of God, and the Christian religion of divine origin, I cannot, for a moment, entertain it.”

Life & Sermons of Jesse L. Sewell
via **GOSPEL DIGEST**,
August, 1959

JESUS CHRIST said: “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.” (John 15:10).

— **SENTENCE SERMONS** —

Character is like a tree, and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it: the tree is the real thing. — **Abraham Lincoln**

* * * * *
Persons are to be loved; **things** are to be used. — **Reuel Howe**

* * * * *
Prosperity is no just scale; adversity is the only balance to weigh friends.
Plutarch

* * * * *
It is not enough just to trust. You must have your trust in the right one.

* * * * *
Often Satan’s “best” work is done by those who claim to love the Lord.

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