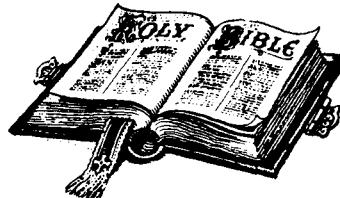


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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CONTROVERSY

Controversy is as old as man. Noah stood as the foe of wickedness among the antedeluvians, Abraham among the nomads of his day, and Moses faced and repelled the magicians of Pharaoh's court. Elijah put to flight the prophets of Baal by appeal to the Eternal God, and Jehovah confirmed the strength of a righteous man by vindicating Job's defense of his cause. John the Baptist was a controversialist and Stephen a disputer. Paul expounded, testified, persuaded, disputed, and urged young Timothy to reprove, rebuke, exhort, and fight. Jude admonished, "**Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered.**" (Jude 3).

The greatest debater of them all was the Son of God himself. His opposition to error, his exposure of religious bigotry and hypocrisy, and his refutation of human traditions by an appeal to the Scriptures so enraged his opponents that they determined and executed his destruction.

The idea that Jesus of Nazareth was so retiring that he opposed nothing is a concept not found in the Bible. Many overlook the righteous indignation which stirred his heart and caused him to denounce the show and emptiness of his religious contemporaries with a fervor and sincerity found in no other character in Biblical or secular history.

True enough, our Lord was passive, meek and non-retaliatory when reproached and reviled by his personal enemies. Under these conditions he was a lamb led to the slaughter and dumb before his shearers. But the Lion of Judah displayed fierce and terrible anger when the law of his Heavenly Father was abused and when hypocrisy made merchandise of holy things. He gave no quarter to his polemic enemies and asked none of them. He was master of every situation, supreme over sophistry and fatal to fallacies. He detected men's motives, for he knew their hearts. Dilemmas, ridicule and apparent absurdities offered by his opponents received the same treatment — unmerciful exposure and scathing rebuke. "Hypocrites," "blind guides," "fools," "serpents," and "generation of vipers," are not the words which seek peace at the price of principle; yet they focus attention on a principle which alone can bring and retain peace. This principle deals with an attitude of uncompromising loyalty to God's Word. In an earlier conflict with his nation, the Lord had set forth its essence when he said to the Jews who believed on him, "**If yet continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" (John 8:31-32).

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

“CONSIDER WHAT I SAY . . .”

(Concluded)

A long time ago, the Psalmist in speaking to God, said: “**The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple.**” (Psalms 119:130). In speaking to Timothy the apostle Paul said: “**Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.**” (2 Timothy 2:7). Only those who consider what Paul (and other inspired man) has said are promised **understanding from the Lord.**

IF WE CONSIDER

If we consider what Paul said in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:1-7 we can learn and **understand** that in order for men to serve as **bishops** (elders) in the church they **must be qualified** and what those qualifications are. Any time you are concerned about bishops (elders) and their qualifications, you should carefully read and consider what these verses say. To learn of their work and responsibilities, you should consider what is spoken in such passages as Acts 20:28-32; 1 Peter 5:1-4 and Hebrews 13:18. To learn and **understand** that elders that “rule well” should be counted worthy of honour you should consider what Paul said in 1 Timothy 5:17-20.

If we will consider what Paul said in 1 Timothy 5:16 we can receive **understanding** concerning the church relieving widows indeed. Here is

what Paul said: “**If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.**” Paul said “**the church**” is to relieve widows indeed! The **church** relieves! The church provides whatever is essential in doing its work of relieving. Not only would the church provide the funds needed but also the **oversight** (or supervision) of that relieving. NOTE: Most advocates of benevolent societies such as **Childhaven, Inc.**, being donated to by churches contend that the church can **not** actually care for widows but can **only** provide the funds. However, if we will consider what Paul actually says, surely, we can receive understanding.

If we will consider what Paul said in Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; Col. 3:18-19 and what Peter said in 1 Peter 3:1-7 we can learn and **understand** some responsibilities that husbands and wives have toward each other. NOTE: If we allow our desires, preferences and emotions to control our thinking, we may **not** receive an **understanding** of these things from the Lord. **Suggestion:** Take time to read and consider these passages with a desire to know God’s will in these matters and see what a difference it might make in you “understanding.”

If we will consider what Paul said in Ephesians 5:1-12; 1 Timothy 5:22 and 2 Corinthians 6:14 through 7:1 we can learn and **understand** that we are **not** to “**have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**” We will be able to understand that **righteousness does not have fellowship with unrighteousness** and that **light does not have communion with darkness.** NOTE: If we allow our emotions preferences along with pressures from others to cloud our thinking, we may **not** receive understanding from the Lord.

“**WHEREFORE BE YE NOT UNWISE, BUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS.**” (Eph.5:17).

(CRS)

"THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION"

IS IT WRONG TO USE INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TO ACCOMPANY THE SINGING OF RELIGIOUS SONGS AT HOME?

There are people who think it is wrong to use instrumental music in the worship that is performed when the whole church is assembled, yet it is all right to use such to accompany the singing of the same songs if this singing is done "at home" or at times other than when "in church." Perhaps it would be a good idea first to notice why it is wrong to use instrumental music even in "church worship."

There are a number of passages in the New Testament which tells us the kind of "music" that God wants: (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12). In all of these, God has been and is very specific. They will all say "sing", but none will say "play." Note Col. 3:16, "**singing with grace in you hearts,**" or Eph. 5:19, "**singing and making melody in your heart.**" From such passages every man can learn that God says "sing." For any man to say "play" is to say something that God has not said. It is to "go beyond what is written"; it is to "add to the word of God." Going beyond" and "adding to" are condemned by the Lord, and when we do so we are not pleasing to Him. (2 John 9; Rev. 22:18-19).

The use of instrumental music in worship violates "God's law of exclusion." When God specifies a thing, He thereby "**excludes**" everything else of that kind. For example, when God specified that Noah was to use "**gopher wood**" in the building of the ark, He thereby **excluded** the use of any other kind of wood. And in the New Testament, when He specified the use of "**singing**", He thereby **excludes** the use of any other kind of music.

But the New Testament not only mentions "singing" in connection with

what we might call "church worship." There are a number of passages which mention this subject in connections that are not merely speaking of "church worship." In James 5:13, the Bible says, "**Is any merry? let him sing psalms,**" or as the ASV says "**sing praise.**" Please observe that it mentions "sing", but it does not mention "play." This is surely not limited to activity "in church" but says when "merry" which would include activities not "in church." We might note also in Acts 16:25 Paul and Silas "sang", but they surely did not "play." And this is exactly what we find in connection with "church worship." The New Testament says "sing", but it does not say "play."

If we are going to observe God's law of "exclusion" in matters of "church worship" (and surely we should), we ought also to observe it in private "singing". If not, why not?

In the next place, it ought to be observed that when we sing songs which praise God, are we not in fact worshipping? We either are or we are making a mockery of what we are doing. And we ought to remember, is not worship defined to mean "an act or acts of reverence paid to the Creator"? And if it is worship, we certainly have no Scriptural right to use instrumental music.

I fear that some Christians have unthoughtedly given people who do not understand the Scriptures' teaching on instrumental music an occasion to "speak reproachfully." It will be virtually impossible, and I can see why, to get other people to see that it is wrong to use instrumental music in praise to God "in church", but right to use it in praise to God at home.

The fact is, God has authorized us to sing; He has not authorized us to play. Instrumental music in praise to God is "going beyond" and "adding to" what has been written.

—Hiram O. Hutto in
THE MIDFIELD BULLET, 12/14/72

SUTTON-FROST DEBATE

The third series of discussions between **Carrol R. Sutton** and **Jack L. Frost**, Founder and President of the **End-Time Society of True Holiness Christians, Inc.** is scheduled to be conducted at the building of the **East Albertville Church of Christ** December 1, 2, 4, & 5, 1986. The building is located at 1107 Highway 431 South in Albertville, Ala. This is about a quarter of a mile south of the Arrow Shirt Factory. The time will be 7:30 each evening.

On December 1-2, 1986, **Carrol R. Sutton** will affirm that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT WATER BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY THE ALIEN SINNER." **Jack L. Frost** will deny that proposition.

On December 4-5, 1986 **Jack L. Frost** will affirm that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT WATER BAPTISM IS NOT ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY THE ALIEN SINNER." **Carrol R. Sutton** will deny that proposition.

Make plans to attend this debate. It should prove to be very profitable. For further information call (205) 878-0920.

(Continued from page 1)

CONTROVERSY

In his debates not once did Jesus lose his temper, take unfair advantage of or misrepresent his antagonists, or resort to trickery or deceit. He met them openly, fairly, squarely. He was not unkind nor was he vacillating. He knew the issue, kept it before his opponents and drove his points home. He did not ridicule but he did expose error. He hated evil whatever its form and condemned it whereever found.

— James R. Cope in
SEEKING TRUTH, 11/18/73

(Editor's note: The following was found on the same page as the above article: "Wise words from the introduction to the book **Campbell and Controversy**."

A THOUGHT

"If I supply you a thought, you may remember it, and you may not. But if I can make you think a thought for yourself, I have indeed added to your stature."

— Elbert Hubbard

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Life's greatest challenge is not being a man's man, but God's man.

* * * * *

If no one would listen, no one would gossip.

* * * * *

The sunlight of love will kill the germs of jealousy and hate.

* * * * *

Courage enables us to stand alone, when necessary, and to stand with others who stand alone.

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