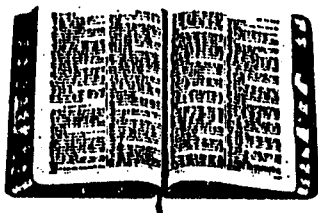


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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## *HOW MAY A PERSON KNOW HE IS SAVED?* (No. 2)

In our study last month we discussed the fact that there is a *present salvation* (i. e., remission of alien sins) and a *future salvation* (i. e., having eternal life in possession in heaven). *Salvation from past sins* comes when one obeys the first principles of the gospel of Christ. (See Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:6-9; Rom. 6:17-18; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38, etc.). We receive a *future salvation* (eternal life in the world to come) when we obey the Lord as Christians. (See Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14; Heb. 10:39; Rev. 2:10, etc.).

We showed from the Scriptures that *we can not know that we are saved*: (1) By human traditions or commandments of men, (2) By merely living a good moral life, (3) By "honesty" alone, (4) By our "feelings", and, (5) By our conscience. We also showed that *we can know that we are saved by what is written in the Scriptures*. In 1 John 5:13 we read: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

In order to know that we are saved by what is written we must *learn from the Scriptures* what we must do to be saved from our past sins and to receive eternal life in possession in heaven.

In the *great commission* given by Christ in Mt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16 and Luke 24:47 we learn that the *gospel must be preached* and *sinner must believe it, repent of their sins* and *be baptized in order to be saved*. Labouring under that commission beginning on Pentecost in Acts 2 the apostle Peter told inquiring Jews who had been pricked in their hearts by the preaching (and they were now believers) 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." (v. 38).

In Acts 16:25-34 we have an account of the conversion of a jailor in Philippi who was an unbeliever. When he asked the question: "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?", Paul and Silas said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." (Continued on page 4)

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## Editorial...

### SOME SINS OFTEN OVERLOOKED (NO. 7)

Many who claim to be Christians often overlook many sins. It may be because of ignorance due to a lack of study of the Scriptures or it may be because the seriousness of such is not realized or it may be for other reasons. Let us continue our study of some sins often overlooked.

#### XXV. THE SIN OF FAIL- ING TO TREAT OTHERS AS WE DESIRE TO BE TREATED IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED!

All of us desire to be properly treated. We expect people to tell us the truth, be honest and treat us fairly. In addition to this we would certainly appreciate courtesy and kindness. Sometimes we receive all of these things, sometimes part of them and sometimes none of them.

In view of the various ways we are sometimes treated, how should we treat others? We have no Scriptural right to decide how we would like to treat others and choose what

treatment we will give them. We must keep in mind that Jesus Christ is Lord and He has the right to tell us how we should treat others. In Luke 6:31 He gives us a principle that should guide us in our response to others regardless of how they treat us. He said: "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise." We should treat others as we would have them to treat us. The principle is clear. *We must treat others the way we desire that others treat us.*

Someone may ask: Does that mean that if we are lied to, treated unfairly and treated "roughly" that we cannot response with "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth"? Yes, that is exactly what the Lord meant! (See Exo. 21:24; Lev. 24:20 Dt. 19:21; Mt. 5:38-42). In fact, we must be truthful to those who lie to us, be honest with those who are dishonest toward us, and treat fairly those who are unfair to us. We are must be courteous and kind to others although they may be discourteous and unkind toward us. We must treat them *as* we would have them to treat us; not *as* they treat us. *We should give diligence that we do not fail to treat others as we desire to be treated by others.* Let us not overlook our responsibility along this line. We are to be different from people of the world because *we are truly Christians!*

#### XXVI. THE SIN OF UN- FORGIVENESS IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED.

All sinners should desire forgiveness of their sins. The Lord does not want any one to perish, but He desires that all come to repentance that they may receive forgiveness. (See 2 Peter 3:9). Although man was lost in sin and did nothing to merit salvation (i.e. forgiveness), God's grace has made forgiveness possible. However, to receive forgiveness of our

sins there are certain conditions that God has given that we must comply with that we may receive forgiveness. Aliens must become penitent believers and be baptized for the remission of sins. (See Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; Acts 17:30; 3:19; Rom. 10:9-10; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38 and Gal. 3:26-27). Erring children of God must repent of sins, confess them and pray for forgiveness. (See Acts 8:22; Jas. 5:16; 1 John 1:9 and James 5:19-20). When God's conditions are met God always forgives, even over and over again.

In Eph. 4:32 Paul said: "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." NOTE: We are to forgive others *as God hath forgiven us!*

We, like God, should forgive those who sin against us. Jesus said: "Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent: thou shalt forgive him." (Luke 17:3-4). In Mt. 18:21-22 we read: "Then came Peter to him and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Until seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." NOTE: Literally, seventy times seven is 490 ninety times. This, no doubt, is teaching that forgiveness should take place as many times as a brother sins and penitently turns to us asking for forgiveness!

In Mt. 6:12 in the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he told them to say: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." In Luke 11:4 we read: "And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us..." NOTE: We learn from these verses that God's forgiveness for us is

conditioned upon our forgiving those who sin against us.

Since we cannot receive forgiveness from God unless we forgive others, it is absolutely imperative that we forgive those who sin against us. When unforgiveness is in our hearts because of malice or ill will toward others, we should remove the ill will and malice and forgive as the word of God teaches! *Let us be careful that we are not guilty of overlooking the sin of unforgiveness!*

**XXVII. THE SIN OF BEING LUKEWARM.** Speaking to the church of the Laodiceans in Rev. 3: 15-17 Jesus said: I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." NOTE: The word *lukewarm* suggests *tepid, moderately warm*. Obviously it is used metaphorically here to denote that the Laodicean church "*afforded no refreshment to the Lord, such as is ministered naturally by either cold or hot water*" according to W.E. Vine's Dictionary.

We learn from Titus 2:14 that Jesus "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." NOTE: We should be "*zealous of good works*." It seems that the Laodiceans thought they were rich and needed nothing because they were "*increased with goods*". However, they were "*wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked*."

In Rom. 12:11 Paul said: "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." (Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

In 1 Cor. 15:58 we are told to **"...be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."**

We may be lukewarm as individuals or as a congregation. The Lord is not pleased with lukewarmness. We may be lukewarm in our worship in our public assemblies or in our efforts to fulfill our responsibilities outside of the assemblies. One area in which many churches and individuals are lukewarm is in the efforts put forth to teach others the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can do much better than we are in this area and we must do so!

In Rev. 3:19 Jesus said: **"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent."**

*Let us not overlook the sin of lukewarmness* but let each of us examine our hearts and search our souls and repent and be zealous if we need to! (CRS) (To be continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Verse 32 says **"And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house."** NOTE: He had to hear the Lord's word in order to receive faith. (Cf. Rom. 10:17) Verse 33-34 says: **"And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway. And when he had come into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house."** NOTE: His rejoicing came *after* he heard the word of the Lord, *believed* and *was baptized* as Jesus had said in Mk. 16:16.

In Acts 8:26-39 the eunuch of Ethiopia *went on his way rejoicing after* he heard Jesus preached, *believed* and *was baptized*!

When we learn, believe and obey the teaching of God's grace, we are then *washed in Christ's blood* and thus *saved by the grace of God*! (See Titus 2:11-12; Acts 20:24, 32; Eph. 2:5,8-9; Rom. 5:1-2; James 2:24; Rom. 6:17-18). NOTE: *We can only know that we are saved by what is written!* (CRS)

## SENTENCE SERMONS

We can and we will do a lot more good if we are not concerned about who gets the credit.

\* \* \* \* \*

God does not comfort us only to make us comfortable, but also to make us comforters.

\* \* \* \* \*

To have a happy marriage you must not only marry the right person, but you must *be* the right person!

\* \* \* \* \*

To be sanctified by the truth, one must learn it, believe it and obey it!

\* \* \* \* \*

The gospel needs believing, obeying and *defending*! (See Mk. 16:15-16; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Phil. 1:17; Jude 3).

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