

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

Volume 10

FEBRUARY, 1973

Number 2

THE CHURCH VERSUS DENOMINATIONS

The church was built by Jesus Christ. (Matt. 16:18). All denominations were established by men.

The church is built upon Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11). Denominations were all built upon men, movements or theories.

Jesus built one church. (John 10:16; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:20). Men have built many denominations.

The church was purchased with the blood of the Son of God. (Acts 20:28). He did not purchase any denomination with His blood.

Jesus is the head of the church. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23). Men serve as heads of the various denominations.

Jesus Christ is the lawgiver of the church. (Matt. 28:18; Acts 2:36; James 4:12). Men give the laws which govern denominations.

The church is governed by the Word of God. (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 4:17). Denominations follow man-made creeds.

Christ is the Saviour of the church. (Eph. 5:23). Denominations have no saviour.

All of the saved are in the church. (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11). Denominations claim to possess only some of the saved.

All spiritual blessings are in the church. (Eph. 1:3) There is no promise of any spiritual blessing in denominationalism.

The church teaches for doctrine the commandments of God. (Matt. 15:9; Gal.

1:6-9; 2 John 9). Denominations teach for doctrine the commandments of men.

The church wears no human names. (Romans 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 4:12). Denominations wear human names.

The church began in Jerusalem about A.D. 33. (Acts 2). All denominations began since that time at some other place.

—Jimmy Thomas

JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS

An elderly lady, the self-appointed supervisor of a little rural village's morals, accused a workman of having turned to drink because "with her own eyes" she had seen his wheelbarrow standing outside a tavern. The accused made no defense, but that evening he parked his wheelbarrow outside her house and left it there all night.

The Bible also has somewhat to say regarding this unholy exercise of "jumping to conclusions." Only the Bible calls it "bearing false witness." 2 Tim. 3:3 refers to such people as false accusers. 1 Tim. 6:4 calls the practice evil surmisings. Rom. 1:30 says they are inventors of evil things, and 1 Pet. 4:15 refers to them as busybodies.

—Guthrie Dean

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Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting on Highway 431 South in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Ala. 35950.

Second-Class postage paid in
Albertville, Al. 35950.

Editorial.....

"Quit Ye Like Men"

In 1 Corinthians 16:13 the apostle Paul gave some much needed exhortations to saints of God when he said: **"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, QUIT YE LIKE MEN, be strong."** Christians are to **"give strict attention to"** their attitudes and actions lest they fall into sin. Caution must be exercised. We should actively **"take heed lest"** we fall. (See 1 Cor. 10:12). The admonition to **"stand fast in the faith"** must not go unheeded. Earnest effort should be made **"to stand firm,"** i.e., to persevere in the faith. One must know the teachings of Christ in order to **"stand fast in the faith."**

The exhortation to **"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"** is as appropriate now as it was in the first century. Some of the saints at Corinth had not developed into spiritually mature men at the time Paul wrote to them. They were **"as babes in Christ."** (See 1 Cor. 3:1-3). They were characterized by envying, strife and divisions. These sins evidenced their carnality. One of them was a fornicator. (See 1 Cor. 5). Some of them were **"going to law"** with brother, and that before unbelievers. (See 1 Cor. 6). The Lord's supper was not being properly observed. (See 1 Cor. 11:17-34). It seems that some may have been mis-using some of the

spiritual gifts that were in operation in the church, but were to cease **"when"** the **"perfect"** law of liberty came. (See 1 Cor. 13 and 14). The admonition to **"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"** was definitely needed then and it is certainly needed today because of prevailing conditions.

According to THAYER, the word translated **"quit ye like men"** means **"to show one's self a man, be brave."** (THAYER'S LEXICON, page 43). BERRY'S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON says it means **"to act like a man, to be brave."** (Page 9). The NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE says: **"act like men."** In 1 Cor. 14:20 Paul said: **"Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."** He also said: **"When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things."** (1 Cor. 13:11). All of us who are Christians should see the need of becoming **"full-grown"** in Christ Jesus. We should **"be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and by cunning craftiness,"** (Eph. 4:14), but we should **"put away childish things"** and grow and develop into spiritually mature adults. Many problems in the family as well as in the church are caused by spiritual immaturity.

Little children are untaught, unskilled and very immature. This is evidenced by many of their actions. Most children are easily hurt, will cry often and pout when things do not go according to their desires. There is a similar situation in the church. Many **"saints"** are easily hurt, will cry often and pout when things do not go according to their desires. Paul said: **"QUIT YE LIKE MEN!"**

Children are unstable. They are very changeable and inconsistent. A child finds it difficult to work long at a time. He rarely finishes a job. Many **"saints"** are afflicted with instability. They are inconstant. Successful living **demands** constant attention and steadfastness. Paul said: **"QUIT YE LIKE MEN!"**

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"QUIT YE LIKE MEN" Continued

Children like to be noticed and petted. They will mis-behave in order to get attention. Some "saints" are childish in this respect also. They like to be noticed and petted. In fact, some of them will "create a scene" or "pitch a fit" in order to attract attention. Paul said: "QUIT YE LIKE MEN!"

Little children do not have wisdom or sound judgment, and they are easily influenced and led in the wrong direction. Many "saints" do not have wisdom or sound judgment, and they are easily influenced and led in the wrong direction. Worldly pleasure, material possessions, flattery, human wisdom, human traditions, or a spirit of envy or malice may lure a "saint" from the highway of holiness into a path of wickedness. Paul said: "QUIT YE LIKE MEN!"

Most children want their way about every thing and do not see the benefit they receive when they are corrected and chastened. A similar condition exists in the church. Some "saints" insist on their way regardless of the feelings and welfare of others or the church. They do not profit as they should when they are chastened of the Lord and corrected by His Word because they have an ungodly attitude. Paul said: "QUIT YE LIKE MEN!"

Although we should "put away childish things" and "be men," there is a sense in which we should "be children." Paul said: "howbeit in malice (or wicked-CRS) be ye children." (See 1 Cor. 14:20). Little children do not hold grudges nor harbor malice in their hearts, but they are innocent and forgiving. We should be "man enough" to put away all malice and be innocent and forgiving. Little children are free of prejudice, eager to learn and can be taught obedience. We should be "man enough" to free our hearts of prejudice, manifest a desire to learn God's will and be willing to obey it from the heart. Little children are gentle, trusting and humble. All who

profess faith in Christ should be "man enough" to be gentle, trusting and humble. Remember the apostle Paul said: "QUIT YE LIKE MEN.!"

SOME OTHER CHARACTERISTICS OF MEN

1. **SOBERNESS.** Those who are spiritually mature are "sober". Paul urges Christians to "be sober" in 1 Thess. 5:6, 8 and in 2 Tim. 4:5. Peter likewise exhorts God's elect to "be sober." (See 1 Pet. 1:13; 5:8). To "be sober" means "to be calm and collected in spirit; to be temperate, dispassionate, circumspect" according to THAYER'S LEXICON, page 425. You should "act like a man" by being sober.

2. **TEMPERANCE.** Peter urges Christians to add "temperance" to "knowledge." (See 2 Pet. 1:6). "Temperance" is a fruit of the Spirit. (See Gal. 5:22-23). "Temperance" is "self-control." Mr. Thayer says it is the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, esp. his sensual appetites. Daniel exercised temperance. (See Dan. 1:8).

3. **PATIENCE.** Christians should be "man enough" to add "patience" to "temperance." (See 2 Pet. 1:6). "Patience" involves "steadfastness, constancy, endurance." It causes a person to be loyal to God even when trials and sufferings are numerous and severe. James said: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." (Jas. 1:2-4). Paul said: "... be ye steadfast ..." (1 Cor. 15:58).

4. **WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT.** Although Christians are not to engage in carnal wars, they are engaged in a life or death struggle with the forces of evil. This struggle is not against spiritual wickedness. Paul exhorted Timothy to "fight the good fight of faith." (1 Tim. 6:12), and to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Tim. 2:3). The Hebrew writer reminded the first

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When Paul Was Defeated

Paul once got the defeat of his life! No, it was not at **Lystra** where he was stoned and left for dead, for he planted a church there. It was not at **Phillippi** where he was beaten with rods and put in stocks, for he planted a church there, too. Nor was it at **Thessalonica** where he was mobbed, for he built a church in that city. No, it was not at **Corinth** nor **Ephe-sus** where he was persecuted, for he suc-cessfully defended the cause of truth in those cities. Where was Paul defeated? At **Athens**! At **Athens** where no violence was shown, but where they were just **INDIFFERENT** to the cause of truth!

Indifference to the invitation of Christ! How subtle and how dangerous indifference is! Indifference can destroy a soul just as surely as adultery or murder. "How can we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" (Heb. 2:3). Christ-ian, if you value your soul, don't be **IN-DIFFERENT** to the church of the Lord!

—Bill J. Humble

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"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"

century saints to whom he wrote that they had "**endured a great fight of af-flictions.**" (Heb. 10:32). He pointed out to them that they had "**need of patien-ce,**" that after they had done the will of God, they "**might receive the promise.**" (See Heb. 10:36). Fainthearted saints are not willing to "**fight the good fight of faith**" as did the apostle Paul. (See 2 Tim. 4:6-8).

5. **LOVE.** Saints should have genuine love for God, for His Word, for brethren, for the church and even for their ene-mies. (See Matt. 22:37; 2 Thess. 2:10; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 John 5:2; Matt. 5:44). True love is a genuine concern for the feel-ings and welfare of others.

Brethren, when we are tempted to act childish, let us all remember that Paul said: "**QUIT YE LIKE MEN!**"

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

A fool's tongue is always long enough and sharp enough to cut his throat.

If Christ is kept outside, there must be something wrong inside.

You are never defeated unless you defeat yourself.

He is no fool who parts with what he cannot keep in order to get that which he shall not lose.

Be patient with the faults of others; they have to be patient with yours.

The length of one's life is of less importance than its breath and depth.

Any dead fish can float down stream, but it takes a live one to swim up stream.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Route 3, Highway 431 So.

Albertville, Alabama 35950