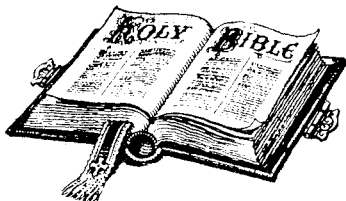


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 22

JULY, 1985

Number 7

## **REFUSING TO OBEY GOD BECAUSE OF ONE'S FAMILY**

Often in teaching the word of God, we are confronted by the problem of one who will not obey the truth he has learned because of his family. He discovers his loved ones have been in error. If they are dead he may even say, "If they are lost, I don't want to be saved." Here are some things to consider. Weigh them carefully.

**IT IS RECKLESS SENTIMENTALISM** that keeps us from obeying the gospel because of our parents. Our parents cannot save us. It is an individual thing. No one can have your faith any more than they can have your health. In Ezekiel 18:20 we are taught individual responsibility before God. Father nor son can bear each other's iniquity. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die."

**IT IS A DISHONORING THING.** Our parents cannot save us but they can teach us to be honest with ourselves and the word of God. A refusal to do different once we have learned different dishonors our parents.

**IT IS AN INCONSISTENT THING.** What right do we have to ask the Bhuddist to give up the god of his parents; or what right do we have to ask the Jew to give up the religion of his parents; What right, we say, do we have to ask such if we are not willing to give up the error of our parents, no matter how sincere they were?

**IT IS AN UNSCRIPTURAL THING.** Read what Christ said in Matthew 10:34-39. He says that if we

love father or mother more than him we are not worthy of him. We must learn to love Christ more than anyone or anything. The chief accusation of ourselves will be always that we do not love him enough.

Read Luke 16:19-31. If a loved one is lost, they don't want you to be. They want you to know what they didn't know and do what they didn't do.

— **John L. Clark** in  
THE BULLETIN via  
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

### **CAN WE EXPECT TO GO TO HEAVEN?**

**Can we expect to go to heaven,** if we are members of a plant that God has not planted? **No!** Matthew 15:13.

**Can we expect to go to heaven** if we are members of a house that God did not build? **No!** Psalms 127:1.

**Can we expect to go to heaven,** if we wear a name that is not found in the Bible? **No!** Acts 4:12.

**Can we expect to go to heaven,** if we worship God after the commandments and doctrines of men? **No!** Matthew 15:9.

You are invited to check us by the Bible on anything we teach or practice. **"Try the spirits."** 1 John 4:1.

— **Huston Gateley**  
in LIGHT IN DARKNESS  
February, 1971

## THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

## Editorial . . .

### "PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 16)

In our study last month we gave **proof** from the Scriptures that the teaching that "**Sprinkling is baptism**" is **false** doctrine. The fact that **sprinkling** has been practiced for centuries and has been (and **is** being) called **baptism** is **not** proof that **sprinkling is baptism**!

The proponents of such teaching are hereby challenged to either **prove** by the Scriptures that "Sprinkling is baptism" or to cease practicing and teaching such. Although a person may practice "sprinkling" through ignorance of God's word, "sprinkling" is still "sprinkling" and **not** baptism. "Sprinkling does **not** become baptism even if it is practiced through weakness. It is still sprinkling. The Scriptures will instruct in the **fact** that **baptism is a burial**. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 6:3-4 & Col. 2:12).

Number twelve 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 # 12) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"12. **There is nothing in a name.**"

COMMENTS: Most religious people with whom I have talked through the years are of the opinion that "there is nothing in a name." In fact, there are probably thousands of people in this country who have made the statement that "**there is nothing in a name**" many times. This statement is usually

made in an effort to justify the wearing of **human names** in a religious sense.

An honest consideration of the following statements and passages of Scriptures should convince every **sincere** person that the statement that "**there is nothing in a name**" is **false teaching**!

1. Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, p. 558, defines the word "**name**" as "1. The title by which any person or thing is known or designated. 2. A descriptive or qualifying appellation; an epitaph, . . . 3. Reputed character; reputation; . . ."

2. **Names** are used to **identify** persons or things. Thus persons are **known** by names.

3. **Names** are used to **describe** persons or things. Thus persons are **described** by names.

4. We learn from Eph. 1:20-21 that God raised Christ from the dead, and "set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, FAR ABOVE . . . EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, **not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: . . .**"

5. Gen. 2:19 tells us that "... out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air: and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and WHATSOEVER ADAM CALLED EVERY LIVING CREATURE, THAT WAS THE NAME THEREOF." NOTE: Does it matter what we call the living creatures? Do we have the **right** to call an elephant a dog, or to call a kangaroo a cat? Why not, if there is nothing in a name?

6. The youngest son of Terah was named **Abram**. When Abram was ninety years old the Lord appeared unto him and renewed the covenant He had made with Abram and He also said: "**Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but THY NAME SHALL BE ABRAHAM: for a father of many nations have I made thee.**" (Gen. 17:5). NOTE: Did it really matter as to whether he was called Abram or Abraham the rest of his life? Indeed, it did!

7. Gabriel (an angel of the Lord) told Zacharias that his wife "**Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and THOU**

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

## **PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN**

**SHALT CALL HIS NAME JOHN.**" (Lk. 1:13) After the child was born, Zecharias " . . . wrote, saying **HIS NAME IS JOHN.**" (Lk. 1:63). John 1:6 says: "**There was a man sent from God, WHOSE NAME WAS JOHN.**" NOTE: Did it really matter as to what he was called? Indeed, it did!

8. In speaking to Mary, Gabriel said: "**. . . thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS.**" (Lk. 1:31). We learn that after the child was born that "**. . . HIS NAME WAS CALLED JESUS, . . .**" (Lk. 2:21). QUESTION: Did it really matter what he was called? Yes!!

9. We learn from Eph. 1:20-21 that God "**set**" Christ "**FAR ABOVE, . . . EVERY NAME THAT IS NAMED, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: . . .**"

10. Paul said: "**Wherefore God hath highly exalted him, [Jesus Christ—CRS] and given him A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME: . . .**" (Phil. 2:8-10). QUESTION: Is the name of Jesus Christ really above every name? Truly!

11. In referring to the Son, the Hebrew writer said: "**Being made so much better than the angels, as He hath by inheritance obtained A MORE EXCELLENT NAME THAN THEY.**" (Heb. 1:4). NOTE: The name of the Son is more excellent than the name of angels!

12. Salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ and in no other name. Peter said: "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other NAME UNDER HEAVEN given among men, WHEREBY WE MUST BE SAVED.**" (Acts 4:12).

13. We learn from Acts 11:26 that **... the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch.**" NOTE: It is interesting that there is no indication in the Scriptures that the disciples were ever called Baptists, Methodists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, Pentecostals, etc.

14. We learn from Acts 26:27-29 that Paul almost persuaded King Agrippa to be "**a Christian.**" NOTE: Not a

Pentecostal, Mormon or Nazarene, but **a Christian!**

15. James 2:7 says: "**Do they not blaspheme that WORTHY NAME BY WHICH YE ARE CALLED?**" NOTE: Not all names would be worthy, but they were called by "**that worthy name.**"

16. 1 Pet. 4:14 says: "**If ye be reproached for the NAME OF CHRIST, happy are ye, . . .**" QUESTION: What if a person is reproached for the name of Satan? Should he be happy? Why?

17. Peter said: "**But if a man suffer AS A CHRISTIAN, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God IN THIS NAME.**" NOTE: There is absolutely no indication in God's word that one can glorify God in the name Krishna, Mohammed, Luther, Moon, Baptist, Pentecostal or Shinto.

## **OBSERVATIONS:**

1. Christ never taught that "**there is nothing in a name.**"

2. No inspired man ever preached it.

3. There is no statement in the Scriptures that indicates that such is true.

4. In order to teach that "**there is nothing in a name**" one must add to or subtract from the word of God! (See Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19 & 1 Pet. 4:11).

## **CONCLUSIONS:**

**If there is nothing in a name:**

1. Then names do not identify and describe persons or things.

2. It would be right to say **Mary and Steve** instead of **Adam and Eve**.

3. We can rightfully call an elephant a dog and a kangaroo a cat.

4. There is nothing wrong in saying the child born to Elizabeth was **Joe!**

5. The child born to Mary could be called **Judas** instead of **Jesus!**

6. The name of Jesus Christ is not above all names as Phil. 2:9-10 says!

7. Then salvation is not in the name of Jesus Christ as Acts 4:12 says!

8. The disciples may have been called Catholics first at Antioch instead of **Christians!**

9. Then Paul may have been trying to persuade Agrippa to be a **Moslem** instead of a **Christian.**

(Continued on page 4)

# MOTIVES IN CONTROVERSY

Lest some misunderstand we wish to say a word about our motives in plainly discussing controversial subjects and pointing out error in our bulletin.

We have no malice or ill will toward **anyone**. We have no envy, bitterness or hatred. We do not have a contentious spirit, a belligerent attitude or a quarrelsome disposition. We have no "chip-on-the-shoulder" and we are not looking for a wrangle, fuss or argument.

But realizing that truth makes one free (John 8:32) while error condemns (2 Thess. 2:10-12), and prompted by a sincere love, interest and concern for all men everywhere, we kindly strive to point out error and present truth. "Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men" with "great plainness of speech." (2 Cor. 5:11; 3:12). We try to be fair, kind and Christlike in contending earnestly for the faith. (Jude 3).

Sometimes we become one's enemy because we tell them the truth (Gal. 4:16) but it is not our desire or purpose to offend. We regret that it becomes necessary to identify individuals who mislead people (1 Timothy 1:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:17-18) but our love for the lost will not allow us to sit idly by while false teachers lead them to torment. (Matthew 15:14).

Hence we shall continue to fight the good fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12) by disrobing the wolves of the sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15) and exposing Satan's ministers who make a pretence of being God's (2 Cor. 11:13-15). If the Lord wills, we shall continue to "preach the word", "in season, out of season," reproving, rebuking, and exhorting (2 Timothy 4:2). (AMEN! — CRS).

— Earl Fly  
via LIGHT IN DARKNESS  
March, 1971

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(Continued from page 3)

## PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN

10. A man may suffer as a **Mormon** and glorify God in that name instead of the name **Christian**!

**When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that "there is nothing in a name" in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is teaching false doctrine because such is not taught in God's Book! The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!**

(CRS)  
(To be continued)

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## SENTENCE SERMONS

Hell is for two classes of people: those who will do anything and those who won't do anything.

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People who wonder where this younger generation is headed would do well to consider from whence it came.

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A preacher has no more right than anyone else to teach anything or give advise that is not based on truth — as revealed in God's word.

\* \* \* \* \*

You can either "receive . . . the engrafted word" and "save your soul" or **be lost forever**.

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