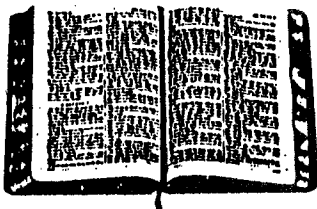


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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"PROPER MOTIVES"

Motive is defined by Webster as "something (as a need or desire) that causes a person to act." Our actions are prompted by motives. The motives that prompt our actions may be good or evil; right or wrong; proper or improper.

ALMSGIVING MAY BE IMPROPERLY MOTIVATED!

In Mt. 6:1-4 Jesus said: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."

Our almsgiving must be to help the needy and to glorify God. It must come from a heart of love or it will profit us nothing! (See 1 Cor. 13:3; 1 John 3:17-18). *Yes, proper motives must move us to give alms!*

PRAYER MAY BE IMPROPERLY MOTIVATED!

In Mt. 6:5-6 Jesus said: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

Our prayers must be properly motivated. They must come from a sincere and reverent heart. We must be doers of God's will and pray in faith. (1 John 3:22; James 1:5-6). *Yes, proper motives must prompt us to pray!*

FASTING MAY BE IMPROPERLY MOTIVATED!

In Mt. 6:16-18 Jesus admonished, saying: "Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: (Continued on page 4)

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ELDERS

Lionel Gary
Rex Henson
Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack
Jerry Tucker
Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950

(256) 878-0920 or crsutton@Hiwaay.net

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

SOME SINS OFTEN OVERLOOKED

Many sins are often overlooked even by those who claim to be Christians. 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. Let us continue our study of some sins often overlooked.

VI. THE SIN OF CHAMBERING IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED!

In Romans 13:13 Paul admonished: "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying." The word translated *chambering* "...denotes, in Rom. 13:13, illicit intercourse" according to VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NT WORDS. It is suggestive of unlawful cohabitation. It would certainly include what we call "*shacking up*". The word is translated "*debauchery*" in the RSV, NEB and Moffatt. It is translated "*sexual immorality*" by

Williams and "*prostitution*" by Berkley. At least four works of the flesh that are mentioned in Gal. 5:19-21 (*adultery, fornication, uncleanness and lasciviousness*) would also condemn the things involved in *chambering*.

In 1 Cor. 6:18 Paul warned saints to "*Flee fornication*." He also said: "Every sin that a man doeth is without the body: but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." In I Cor. 7:2 Paul said; "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." In 1 Thess. 4: 3 Paul declared: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God." NOTE: The sins that are involved in chambering should not be overlooked. They are serious indeed. They will affect out eternal destiny.

VII. THE SIN OF JESTING IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The word translated "*jesting*" properly "denotes wit, facetiousness, versatility... Its meaning certainly deteriorated, and it came to denote coarse jesting, ribaldry, as in Eph. 5:4..." acc. to VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NT WORDS. It is translated "*coarse jesting*" in the NASV and the NKJV. The kind of *joking* or *jesting* that is condemned in this passage is *low, mean, obscene, vulgar or vile jesting*.

In Eph. 4:25 Paul said: "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor..." In verse 29 he said: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." In Col. 3:8

(Continued on next page)

Paul says put off "...**Filthy communication out of your mouth.**" It is imperative that we not sin with our tongue. We should learn to control our tongues. (See Jas. 3:1-10). Let us not be guilty of overlooking this sin of *coarse jesting*!

VIII. THE SIN OF HATRED IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! *Hatred* is "malicious and unjustifiable feelings toward others, whether toward the innocent or by mutual animosity..." acc. to W.E. VINE. *Hatred* is listed as a *work of the flesh* in Gal. 5:19-21. We should not hate God. We should not hate our brothers. If we do we are murderers. (See 1 John 2:11; 3:10-15; 4:20). We should love God. (See Mt. 22:37). We should love the brethren. (See John 13:34-35). We should *love* our neighbors. (See Mt. 22:39; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:14 & Jas. 2:8). We should even *love our enemies*! See Mt. 5:43-48 7 Rom. 12:14).

Those who are guilty of *hatred* shall not inherit the kingdom of God according to Gal. 5:19-21 and *haters of God* and those who have pleasure in *haters of God* are worthy of death (See Rom. 1:30-32).

In view of the penalty for the sin of *hatred*, we should lay aside any *hatred* that may be in our hearts (and make proper correction) and guard against *hatred* in the future.

IX. THE SIN OF WITCHCRAFT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The word translated *witchcraft* is translated *sorcery* in the ASV. Concerning this word W.E. VINE says: "In sorcery, The use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant

with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer." (Expository Dictionary of NT Words). *Witchcraft* is a synonym of *sorcery*. Under the OT law a witch was to be put to death. Exo. 22:18 says: "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." In speaking to Saul, Samuel said: "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..." (1 Sam. 15:23).

The fate of those who practice sorcery is clear. They will have their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. John said: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Rev. 21:8). Also see Rev. 22:15. Let us not be guilty of overlooking the sin of witchcraft.

X. THE SIN OF BEING IMPLACABLE IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED. In the list of sins given in Rom. 1:29-31 we have the sin of being "*implacable*." Thayer's Lexicon (p. 81) says the word translated "*implacable*" means one "that cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant, *implacable*." Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words says practically the same thing. Vine states that Trench says that the word "presumes... a state of war, which the implacable refuse to terminate equitably." The NKJV translates it "*unforgiving*." The same word appears in 2 Tim. 3:3 where it is translated "*trucebreakers*" in the KJV and "*irreconcilable*" in the NASV. The NKJV says "*unforgiving*."

Webster defines "*Implacable*" as "not capable of being appeased, pacified, or mitigated." It suggests that a person is unalterable, inflexible, unchangeable. Thus if a person is implacable he is *unforgiving* as the NKJV says. (Cont'd on p. 4)

(Continued from page 3)

We should be willing to change when it is in order. We should be willing to forgive others. We should be willing to be reconciled to others when it is the right thing to do. Doing right requires us to enter into agreements (covenants) at times. (Consider Ezra 9:1-4, 10-15; 10:1-3, 18, 44.) Repentance may require one to enter into an agreement. Are you willing to change when change is essential to doing God's will? Are you willing to change in order to have peace if you do not have to violate any principle of truth?

W.E. Vine also says that the word translated "*implacable*" and "*truce-breakers*" in Rom. 1:31 and 2 Tim. 3:3 "may signify untrue to one's promise." (Expository Dictionary of NT Words, Vol. II, p. 250). NOTE: If this is the meaning please consider the principle in Eccl. 5:4-5. FURTHER NOTE: We should be faithful in keeping our promises. (See Prov. 14:5). The Lord is our example! (See 1 Peter 2:21-22; 1 Thess. 5:24; Heb. 10:23; 2 Peter 3:9). It is very important that we keep our word. An account must be given! (CRS) (To be continued)

for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

To be acceptable to God, fasting must be done from the heart. Our fasting must not be done to be seen of men, but of God. *Yes, proper motives must move us to fast!*

PREACHING MAY BE IMPROPERLY MOTIVATED!

In Phil. 1:15-17 Paul declared that "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love..."

When preachers are moved by envy and strife or money to preach Christ, they sin and will be judged accordingly! *Yes, proper motives must prompt our preaching!* (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Eastside in Scottsboro, AL Aug. 12-17, 2001 at 7pm Mon thru Fri.

SENTENCE SERMONS

You can't win or gain respect by demanding it. You must earn it!

* * * * *

A man is not paid for having hands and a head, but for using them.

* * * * *

Beware of the half-truth; you may have gotten the wrong half.

* * * * *

A person who gambles with money is also gambling with his soul.

* * * * *

If we would do what we should there would be less time to do what we should not.

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