

# 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 13

JUNE, 1976

Number 6

## THE BIBLE AND YOUTH

The Bible teaches that children are a blessing from God. "Lo, sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them." (Psa. 127:3-5). In the New Testament the desire of the Lord is that "the younger women marry, bear children, rule the household, give no occasion to the adversary for reviling." (1 Tim. 5:14). There is something wrong with a woman who prefers a poodle dog to a little child!

By bringing children into the world, the parents are automatically under obligations to God and the children. Let us not briefly what these obligations are:

**I. The child must be taught the Word of God.** Timothy was told to abide in the things he had learned and had been assured of, "knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a babe thou hast known the sacred writings which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Tim. 3:14-15). The faith that was in Timothy dwelt first in his grandmother Lois and in his mother Eunice. (2 Tim. 1:5). From a babe they had taught him the Scriptures and instilled faith into his mind. This faith, however, first resided in their minds.

If someone should steal material possessions from a child, all would agree that a grave injustice was done. But, if

parents fail to teach their children the way of the Lord, they have robbed them, they have done them a grave injustice and have made them paupers indeed! "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4). "Fathers, provoke not your children, that they be not discouraged!" (Col. 3:21). Parents may train their children by teaching and by setting a Christian example before them.

If someone fed poison to your child, possibly the child would die, and you would expend all efforts to see that that individual was brought to justice. But, parents, are you not just as careless when you allow him to see and read filth that will poison his mind?

**II. Discipline must be exercised to uphold the authority of the home.** "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." (Prov. 13:24). "Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction." (Prov. 19:18). "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6). "Folly is bound up in the heart of the child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him." (Prov. 22:15). "Do not withhold discipline from a child; If thou beat him with the rod he will not die." (Prov. 23:13). "If you beat him with the rod, you will save his soul from sheol." (Prov. 23:14). "Discipline your son and he will give you rest; he will give you delight in

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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.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, Ala. 35950

### *Editorial* — — —

#### PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST (No. 2)

In our study last month we showed that under the Old Testament, **God demanded the first of the firstfruits** of the land. (Exodus 23:19). We showed that after Andrew followed Jesus "**He first findeth his own brother Simon and brought him to Jesus.**" (John 1:41-42). We also read in Matthew 5:23-24 where Jesus taught that when one brought his gift to the altar and there remembered that his brother had ought against him, that he was to leave his gift and go his way and **first be reconciled to his brother** and the come and offer his gift. We also learned from Matthew 7:3-4 that one should **first cast out the beam of his own eye** before trying to remove the mote out of his brother's eye. It was also pointed out that Jesus said hypocrites should **cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.**

In order to **put first things first** it is necessary that **we learn what God wants us to put first**, and then earnestly strive to fulfil our responsibilities. Let us now consider some other things that should be **put first.**

#### FIRST LEARN TO SHOW PIETY AT HOME

The apostle Paul said: "Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow

have children or nephews, let them **learn first to show piety at home, and to requite their parents:** for that is good and acceptable before God." (1 Timothy 5:3-4). Christians have the responsibility of "**honoring**" their parents by providing for their needs as well as showing them proper respect. We owe our parents kindness. We should express unto them in a practical way our dutifulness. If any provide not for his own he had denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

#### ON FIRST DAY BREAK BREAD AND GIVE

We have the right to teach God's word, to sing and to pray daily and we should take advantage of opportunities to so do. However, there are two acts of worship that are limited to **the first day of the week**, namely, the breaking of bread, (i.e. the partaking of the Lord's Supper), and the laying by in store, (i.e. giving of our means into the common fund or treasury of the church). An approved example in Acts 20:7 indicates that the Lord's Supper is to be observed on **the first day of the week.** It reads as follows: "**And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, . . .**" We have no other passage that tells us **what day of the week** the early Christians observed the Lord's Supper. We learn from 1 Cor. 16:1-2 that churches have the right to take up a collection **on the first day of the week.** It reads as follows: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. **Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store,** as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." This is the only passage that specifies **the day (or when)** Christians were to give into a common fund or treasury. If we give into the common fund of the church on other days, we are acting without divine authority.

#### SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In teaching against worry and anxiety over physical necessities, Jesus said: "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). "**First,**" as used in this passage means **before any thing else is done.** It means "**first of all.**" We must not allow our occupations, friends, relatives or desires to prevent us from **seeking "first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness."**

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### PUTTING FIRST THINGS FIRST

Please do not say that you do not have time to worship and serve God. You have the responsibility to use your time in such a way so as to **seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.**" We are **assured** of the essentials of life if we **"seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness"** because Jesus promised that **"all these things shall be added unto you."** You should never allow your job, entertainment or social activities to stand between you and your service to God. If you will truly **"first"** give your own self to the Lord, you will have no difficulty in **seeking first God and His kingdom!** Please consider 2 Cor. 8:5.

### FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT

On one occasion a lawyer came unto Jesus, tempting him, and saying, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matthew 22:36-38). There is no profit in a person claiming to be a child of God if he does not keep **the first and great commandment.** Many will draw nigh unto God with their mouths and will honor God with their lips, but **their hearts** are far from Him. Their worship is in vain. Please read and consider Matthew 15:7-9. Love is known by its actions. **If you truly love God, you will keep His commandments!**

**Have YOU been putting first things first?** If not, why haven't you? If you have, please continue to do so. The world and the things therein will decay and vanish. Those things which are seen are temporal. The things which are not seen are eternal. Let us keep our eyes on **"the things which are not seen!"** Let us sincerely endeavor to **put first things first!**

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your heart." (Prov. 29:17).

III. **Parents must live the principles of Christianity before their children.** Can parents expect their children to follow the teaching of the New Testament and only

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### THE BIBLE AND YOUTH

seldom see some of its principles in action? Will your child know that assembling together with the saints is a command and must be obeyed, if by your action you repeatedly forsake the assembly?

Will children learn to pray, to give, to sing if they only seldom see their parents do these things? If a parent holds a critical, uncooperative, stubborn spirit, will not the child be disposed to do the same? Children had rather see a "sermon" than to hear one, also. Neighbor, if your training is to have the desired effect, you must live the principles you teach!

IV. **Children must obey their parents in the Lord.** (Eph. 6:1-3). "Children obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord." (Col. 3:20). "A wise son heareth his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke." (Prov. 13:1). "A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her that bare him." (Prov. 17:25). "Even a child makes himself known by his acts, whether what he does is pure and right." (Prov. 20:11).

In conclusion, let the young take heed to David's admonition, "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: Oh let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." (Psa. 119:9-11).

---Arvid K. McGuire in APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE, Feb., 1960.

## IF YOU ARE BIG ENOUGH

To stand a compliment, you need not fear the critic.

To face defeat bravely, you can be trusted with victory.

To see a rival succeed without jealousy, you have achieved real greatness.

To keep your head when you are being attacked, you are on the highway to success.

To admit your need of God's help, you have opened the gate of salvation.

To admit that you are wrong, you have made the first step toward getting right.

---Author unknown

## They Were All Wrong

A good many years ago, a preacher went into a town where there was no New Testament church. He preached in a house of worship and then in the market place of the city. Soon the religious leaders of the city heard him and invited him to address them. They thought if his religious claims seemed meritorious to them, they would fellowship him. But to their dismay and confusion, he preached that they were wrong and he was right; that their worship was not acceptable to the God of heaven. He preached that the church to which he belonged was the only true church of the living God. Such a preacher! Don't you know he hurt their feelings? Evidently they were sincere. Surely he could have made a nice talk and got away without causing any discord! Who was the preacher anyway? He name was Paul, and he preached this sermon in Athens. It did cause some stir. It did not please those leaders at all. They got up and left before he finished. But the sermon pleased God. You can read it in Acts 17. There is no room in Christ's church for a compromiser.

———Author unknown

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

It has been more than **two years** since the West Hobbs Street "**elders**" in Athens, Alabama and **Albert Hill** of Florence, Alabama promised to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE in a short time. We still have not received even as much as **one word** as to the **date** for the debate. We are still waiting and are quite anxious to hear from them. We would like to "**test**" some of the "**promotions**" of West Hobbs Street in the light of **God's truth**. We suspect that **Albert** has lost "**courage**" and the West Hobbs Street "**elders**" have "**chickened out**." Is it possible that someone can encourage them enough to "**honor**" their commitment that they will at least make some kind of an effort to defend their practices? We shall wait and see. Time will reveal of what they are made! Are they made of gold, silver or precious stones? Or are they made of wood, hay or stubble?

Wouldn't it be wonderful if all who claim to be Christians would always be truthful?

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## Sentence Sermons

Alcohol deceives by its fragrance, intoxicates by its strength, and renders the intoxicated person ridiculous. --**Adam Clarke**

Why do we tolerate the liquor traffic? What would we do with a business that spreads tuberculosis, small pox, polio, diphtheria, or scarlet fever?

The Christian must have "**won't**" power as well as "**will**" power.

How young folks turn out depends to a great extent on what time they turn in.

When a person doesn't thirst for righteousness, the sermons seem dry.

The early church was no more Roman Catholic than the apostles were Americans.

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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