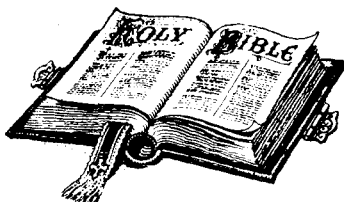


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

JUNE, 1985

Number 6

THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

There is an interesting conversation between Esau and Jacob at their meeting which is recorded in Genesis 33. **"And he (Esau) lifted up his eyes and saw the women and children, and said, Who are those with thee? And he said, The children which God hath graciously given thy servant."** The attitude of Jacob should be the attitude of every parent toward his children. David wrote: **"Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."** (Psalm 127:3).

In Old Testament times, women considered barrenness to be a mark of the displeasure of God. Hannah is a notable example of the unhappiness that prevailed in the life of the woman who had no children. It is wonderful to see her joy at being promised a son in response to her prayer. Her appreciation to God is seen in her dedication of Samuel to the service of God.

Children must still be considered a blessing from God. One of the purposes of the establishment of a home [Editor's note: This has reference to the marriage relationship] is the rearing of children. While the earth may not need replenishing today as it did in the long ago, Christian parents especially should be concerned with children who can be influenced to live for Christ and contribute to the spiritual atmosphere that is needed in every community. Our Saviour taught the lesson: **"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."** (Mt. 7:20).

The fruit of parents is seen in their children. Material possessions are insignificant in value in comparison to the happiness that is to be had by parents who bring up their children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. Too many husbands and wives fail to see this, and refuse to bring children into the world. They deny themselves the happiness and satisfaction of parenthood, and they make of their marriage a sterile and transient relationship whose joys come to an end with the death of either the husband or the wife. How lonely are the husbands and wives who reach the years of the aged without children to love them!

Four abilities should be recognized in the bringing of children into the world. These are: physical, mental, financial, and spiritual. The world is being populated in many instances today by those who have only one of these abilities, the physical.

Love is emphasized and intensified when a Christian husband and a Christian wife become a Christian father and a Christian mother. A new relationship is experienced in that the mutual responsibilities of rearing children have been accepted. The husband views his wife as the mother of his children; and the wife views her husband as the father of those children they have brought into the world.

God gives us children! The expres-

(Continued on page 4)

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.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 15)

Our investigation of the Scriptures last month gave evidence that the doctrine that **"The church is not important"** is false. The popularity of the doctrine does **not** prove its truthfulness. Since such teaching is not true, we dare not believe, teach nor encourage others to believe or teach that **"the church is not important."**

We respectfully challenge the advocates of the above mentioned doctrine to **prove by the Scriptures** that such teaching is true. Repeating a false doctrine millions of times does **not** make it true. A lie is still a lie even after it has been repeated a million times. The Scriptures will instruct us in righteousness. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Number eleven 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 # 11) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"11. Sprinkling is baptism."

COMMENTS: Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Nazarenes, Pentecostal Holiness people and others teach that "sprinkling is baptism", along with immersion (and usually pouring). These people usually grant the candidates for baptism the right to choose between sprinkling, pouring and immersion. **The Catholic Catechism** by Peter Cardinal Gasparri, p.

158, says: **"To secure the validity of the Baptism the washing should be done, either by immersion in the water or by pouring the water, or again by sprinkling it,..."** The **Doctrines and Discipline of the Methodist Church**, 1948, p. 470, says: **"Let every adult person and the parents of every child to be baptized have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion."** The Presbyterian position is expressed like this: **"Baptism may be by sprinkling, pouring or immersion"** in **A Manual of Faith and Life**, 1937, p. 93. The **Manual of the Church of the Nazarene**, 1952, p. 31, says: **"Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring, or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant."** The **Discipline of the Pentecostal Holiness Church**, 1957, p. 13, says: **"The candidates shall have the right to choose whatever mode of baptism he prefers."** The **Confession of Faith . . .** of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1883, p. 59, says: **"Baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water upon the person. . ."**

A sincere consideration of the following statements and passages of Scriptures should convince every honest person that **"Sprinkling is baptism" is false teaching!**

1. The Anglicized word **"baptize"** means **"1. prop. to dip repeatedly, to immerse, submerge, . . . 3. metaph. to overwhelm, . . . to be overwhelmed with calamities, . . . II. In the N. T. it is used particularly of the right of sacred ablution, first instituted by John the Baptist, afterwards by Christ's command received by Christians and adjusted to the contents and nature of their religion . . . viz. an immersion in water, performed as a sign of the removal of sin, and administered to those who, impelled by a desire for salvation, sought admission to the benefits of the Messiah's kingdom; . . ."** according to **THAYER'S LEXICON**, p. 94.

2. The Anglicized word **"baptism"** is **"a word peculiar to N. T. and eccl. writ., immersion, submersion; . . ."** according to **THAYER'S LEXICON**, p. 94.

3. **BERRY'S INTERLINEAR de-**

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"

finer **"baptize"** to mean **"to immerse, submerge, to baptize."** (p. 17-18).

4. John baptized sinners **"in the river of Jordan."** (Cf. Mark 1:4-5).

5. On another occasion John baptized **"in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there."** (Cf. John 3:23). NOTE: Sprinkling does not require **"much water."** Baptism does! Therefore, sprinkling is not baptism!

6. In Acts 8:36-39, both the baptizer and the one to be baptized came to the water, went down into the water (and the sinner was baptized) and both of them came up out of the water. NOTE: Sprinkling does not require either going to the water, going down into the water or coming up out of the water.

7. We learn from Romans 6:4 that **"... we are BURIED with him in baptism into death..."** NOTE: In sprinkling we are not buried with him into death. Therefore, sprinkling is not baptism!

8. We learn from Colossians 2:12 that we are buried and raised in baptism. It says: **"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."** NOTE: Sprinkling neither requires nor allows either a burial or a raising. Therefore, sprinkling can not be baptism!

OBSERVATIONS

1. Sprinkling is never used in the New Testament to mean **"baptism!"**

2. There is no statement in the New Testament that indicates that **"sprinkling is baptism."**

3. There is no command in the New Testament for anyone to be **"sprinkled in baptism."**

4. There is no necessary implication in the New Testament that shows **"sprinkling is baptism."**

5. There is no example in the New Testament of any person being **"sprinkled"** for baptism.

6. **"Sprinkling"** is one action and **"baptism"** is another (and a different) action. Illustration: **"Sitting"** is one

action and **"walking"** is another (and a different) action.

CONCLUSIONS

1. **"Sprinkling"** can not be **"baptism"** any more than **"sitting"** can be **"walking."**

2. **"Sprinkling"** for baptism is not authorized in God's Word!

3. **"Sprinkling"** can not be done **"in the name of Jesus Christ"** since Jesus Christ has not authorized **"sprinkling."** NOTE: Colossians 3:17 says: **"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."**

4. **"Sprinkling"** is not **"baptism"** but it is a substitute for **"baptism."** Therefore sprinkling is wrong! NOTE: If we have the right to substitute sprinkling for baptism, then we have the right to substitute **"whistling"** for **"singing."**

5. **"Sprinkling"** is not **"in the doctrine of Christ."** Therefore, those who teach and practice such do not have God! NOTE: 2 John 9 says: **"Who-soever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."**

6. **"Sprinkling"** is not a good work since the Scriptures furnish us completely **"unto all good works"**, but they do not furnish us to **"sprinkling!"** (Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

7. Since the apostles were guided **"into all truth,"** but were not guided to teach nor practice **"sprinkling,"** it is obvious that **"sprinkling"** is no part of **"all truth!"** (Cf. John 16:13).

8. In order to teach and practice **"sprinkling,"** one must add to, subtract from or substitute for the word of God! (Please read and carefully consider Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19; 1 Peter 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 4:6). NOTE: In so doing, one teaches and practices **"another gospel."** (Cf. Galatians 1:6-10).

When a person presumes to speak the doctrine that **"Sprinkling is baptism"** 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)

(Continued from page 1)

THE BLESSING OF CHILDREN

sion, "a bundle from heaven", carries a truth that should be accepted by every parent. Yet too many people today become parents with little relish for the responsibility thrust upon them by the children who enter the home. Very little concern is manifested regarding the great value of the life that has been placed in the hands of the husband and wife. What the child becomes is determined to a large extent by the parents.

The present chaotic condition in our country relative to crime; the flaunting of authority; and the degrading moral conditions; can be traced in large measure to the failure of parents to properly evaluate the treasure of children given to them by Jehovah.

We cannot, in this article, go into all the responsibilities of parents. But briefly, parents have the responsibility of training their children. Solomon wrote: "**Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he**

will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6).

Training includes teaching, parental guidance, discipline, and proper provision for the needs of the children. It requires both father and mother working together to accomplish that which God desires for the child.

Parents have the responsibility of providing for the child physically and materially. Paul wrote: "**But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**" (1 Timothy 5:8)

Proper training and proper provision will emphasize bringing up children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4). The father and mother who follow God's commands in the home, will discover joy unspeakable in the children that God gave them. They will learn that those children were indeed, blessings from God.

—Foster L. Ramsey in
MOORESVILLE MEMO,
April, 1968

SENTENCE SERMONS

Just because a sheep bleats a lot does not mean he produces a lot of wool.

* * * * *

Fewer wants, not greater wealth, will bring contentment.

* * * * *

To become truly rich, one must properly spend himself.

* * * * *

God's way to heaven can be found in God's Book!

* * * * *

You had better prepare for eternity. You will be there a long time!

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South

Albertville, Alabama 35950