

# 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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## ***"KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE"***

A long time ago Solomon said: **"Keep thy heart with all diligence..."** (Prov. 4:23). This admonition is needed by every accountable person in all generations.

**WHAT IS THE HEART?** It is that part of man that:

1. **THINKS.** Prov. 23:7 says: **"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..."** Also see Mt. 9:4 & Acts 8:22.

2. **REASONS.** Mark 2:6 says: **"But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts."** In v. 8 Jesus said unto them, **"Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"**

3. **UNDERSTANDS.** Jesus said: **"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."** (Mt. 13:15).

4. **KNOWS.** Solomon said: **For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others."** (Eccl. 7:22).

5. **BELIEVES.** Rom. 10:10 says: **"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness..."**

6. **TRUSTS.** Prov. 3:5 says:

**"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."**

7. **LOVES & HATES.** Mt. 22:37 says: **"Thou shalt love thy neighbor with all thy heart..."** and Psa. 105:25 says: **"He turned their heart to hate his people..."**

8. **WILLS.** (Israelites) **"...whose heart made them willing..."** (Ex. 35:29).

9. **CONDEMNS OR CONDEMNS NOT.** 1 John 3:20-21 says: **"For if our heart condemn us..."** and **"...if our heart condemn us not..."**

**WHY SHOULD WE KEEP OUR HEARTS WITH DILIGENCE?** **"...For out of it are the issues of life."** Our hearts determine our attitudes and actions. Jesus said: (in Mk. 7:21-13) **"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."** Only the **"pure in heart"** shall see God! (Mt. 5:8). *Diligence* is essential in keeping our hearts! *Are you diligent in keeping your heart?* (CRS)

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## Editorial...

### SOME SINS OFTEN OVERLOOKED (No. 1)

*Disobedience, error, fault, iniquity, transgression and ungodliness* are synonymous terms with *sin*. As Christians we should be concerned about being cleansed from (or forgiven of) every sin! (Cf. 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 1:7). Sin will separate us from God and will damn our souls! We should never continue in sin. We should never try to justify any sin "for the wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23).

In 1 Cor. 10:12 Paul said: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" and in 2 Cor. 13:5 he said: "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." NOTE: It is imperative that we examine our selves often and take heed lest we fall.

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 begin a study of some sins often overlooked.

I. THE SIN OF INGRATITUDE IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! We are taught in God's Word to be thankful and to give thanks. Col. 3:15 says: "and be ye thankful." Paul also said: "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Eph. 5:20) and

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (1 Thess. 5:18). Since "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jas. 1:17), *we should be thankful and we should express our gratitude!*

In Luke 17:11-19 we have a record of Jesus cleansing ten men who were lepers. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." NOTE: The nine were guilty of *ingratitude!*

We should be *thankful* for the sunshine, the rain and fruitful seasons (Cf. Mt. 5:45; Acts 14:17) as well all other physical blessings. We should be especially *grateful for the spiritual blessings we have in Jesus Christ!* (Cf. Eph. 1:3).

The wrath of God is revealed from heaven against the wicked people of Romans 1:18-32. Although they knew God they did not glorify Him as God. *Neither were they thankful (grateful)*, but they became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. They professed to be wise but they became fools. They changed the truth of God into a lie and became very vile in their affections. *They were ingrates!*

As Paul said in Col. 2:7 we should *abound with thanksgiving!* We should never overlook the *sin of ingratitude!* Are you guilty of it?

(Continued from page 2)

II. THE SIN OF ENVY IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The word *envy* means "...the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others" according to Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words.

*Envyings* are named in Gal. 5:19-21 along with other works of the flesh. "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." *Envyings* are also listed along with other sins in 2 Cor. 12:20-21. Along with other sinners, those who are "full of envy" are "worthy of death."

In Acts 7:9 Stephen said: "And the pa-triarchs, *moved with envy*, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him." Jesus was delivered unto Pilate because of *envy*. Mt. 27:18 says: For he knew that *for envy* they had delivered him." (Also see Mark 15:10). It is possible for a person to *live* "in malice and envy" according to Tit. 3:3.

Proverbs 14:30 says: "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but *envy* the rottenness of the bones."

*Envy*ing, strife and divisions are evidences of carnality according to 1 Cor. 3:3 and where *envy*ing and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work according to James 3:14-16.

"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; ...not in strife and *envy*ing." (Rom. 13:13). "Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, *envy*ing one another." (Gal. 5:26).

Proverbs 23:17 says: "Let not thine heart *envy* sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long."

Are you guilty of the sin of *envy*? Have you *overlooked* it in your life? If so, *correct* it while you have time and opportunity!

III. THE SIN OF BOASTING IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The word *boasting* may indicate "any kind of haughty speech which stirs up strife or provokes others" according to Vine's

Expository Dictionary of NT Words. It is an *arrogant display*. Obviously, *boasting* is an outward display of an inward disposition.

In Rom. 12:3 Paul said: "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." In 1 Cor. 13:4 (NASV) we read that "...love does not brag and is not arrogant." NOTE: If our hearts are right we will be humble and will not have an arrogant attitude that may result in *boastings*.

James 4:16 says: "Now ye rejoice in your *boastings*: all such rejoicing is evil." In Rom. 1:29-32 *boasters* are listed along with others who "are worthy of death." In 2 Tim. 3:1-5 Paul that ...in the last days perilous times shall come, For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, *boasters*..." NOTE: Troublesome, difficult, hard to bear times shall come, Paul said, because some men are *boasters*.

The pride of life, which, no doubt, produces or brings about *boasting* is not of the Father, but is of the world. (See 1 John 2:16).

Are you guilty of *boasting*? Have you been overlooking it? If so, make correction in your life today.

IV. THE SIN OF WRATH IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! W.E. Vine defines the word wrath as "hot anger, passion". *Wrath* is "an agitated condition of the feelings." It is an outburst from inward indignation.

*Wrath* is named in Gal. 5:19-21 as a work of the flesh. Those who are guilty of wrath shall not inherit the kingdom of God. *Wraths* are also listed in the catalog of sins in 2 Cor. 12:20.

We learn from Prov. 27:4 that "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous..."

In Col. 3:8 Paul (Continued on page 4)

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said: "But now he also put off all these; anger, *wrath*, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth." In Eph. 4:26 Paul said: "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath." In 4:31 we read: "Let all bitterness, and *wrath*, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you with all malice."

In Prov. 12:16 Solomon said that "A fool's *wrath* is presently known: but a prudent man covereth his shame." In Prov. 19:19 he declared that "A man of great *wrath* shall suffer punishment."

Prov. 15:1 says that "A soft answer turneth away wrath; but grievous words stirreth up anger." NOTE: In view of this we should be careful when speaking to a *wrathful* man.

Solomon said: "He that is slow to *wrath* is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly." (Prov. 14:29). James (1:19-20) tells us to be "slow to wrath: For the *wrath* of man worketh not the righteousness of God."

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Are you guilty of the sin of *wrath*? Have you been overlooking it?

V. THE SIN OF TUMULT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED. Webster defines the word *tumult* as "disorderly agitation... : COMMOTION... a turbulent uprising : RIOT...violent agitation of mind or feelings...a violent outburst." NOTE: Obviously the person who causes "*tumults*" or encourages such would be guilty of wrongdoing.

*Tumults* are listed in 2 Cor. 12:20 along with other sins. Instead of the word *tumults* the NASV has *disturbances*, the RSV has *disorder* and Green's Interlinear has *disturbances*.

We learn from 2 Cor. 6:3-5 that Paul properly conducted himself when there were *tumults*.

Is the sin of *tumults* in your life?

Have you overlooked any of the above mentioned sins? Are you guilty of any of them? If so, there will be no better time to make correction than now! (CRS)

(To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Jacksonville, AL July 22-27 at 7:30 PM Monday thru Friday. Come!

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Kindness is difficult to give away because it keeps coming back.

\* \* \* \* \*

Never give the devil a ride because he will always want to drive.

\* \* \* \* \*

Stretching the truth will always ruin it! Love the truth and speak the truth with love.

\* \* \* \* \*

We should not change the message of truth but allow the message to change us.

\* \* \* \* \*

Be sure you understand your opponent *before* you answer him..

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