

# 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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## IS THE BIBLE CATHOLIC?

The Bible teaches that—

1. Christ is the **only** head of the true church. (Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18).

2. Peter is never described in the Bible as being the head of the church. The "keys of the kingdom" were given to him and the power of binding and loosing was given to him and to **all** the apostles. (Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18). This power was never delegated to any so-called "successors" of the apostles. The foundation of the church is Christ and **all** of the apostles, not Peter alone. (1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-20).

3. Peter does not fit the Papal pattern, because—

(a) He was a married man. (Matt. 8:14).

(b) He would not allow others to bow down before him. (Acts 10:25-26).

(c) He was not infallible, and when he was found in error he was reprovved before the whole assembly by Paul. (Gal. 2:11-14). **Editor's note:** This "error" in Peter's conduct influenced others and they were "carried away."

(d) There is no Biblical evidence he was ever in Rome.

4. Leaders in the true church are called elders or bishops. They are re-

quired to be **married** men with believing children. (Tit. 1:5-6). These men had the oversight of only one congregation. (Phil. 1:1). Each church was independent. There is no mention in the New Testament of the church ever being governed by popes, cardinals and priests, unmarried men.

5 The New Testament is a complete and perfect guide in all spiritual matters. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 4:6). We are told not to go beyond this perfect guide. (2 John 9). The church and its leaders have never been given authority to make religious rules, articles of faith, or creeds. Hence, there would be no need for church councils, synods, conferences, or centralized church government.

6. Christian worship is described in the New Testament as being simple and heart-felt. (Acts 2:42; Col. 3:16-17). We are warned not to depart from this simplicity. (2 Cor. 11:3). We are warned against various religious seasons and festivals. (Gal. 4:10-11). Such things as incense, robes, holy water, infant baptism, sprinkling, candles, instrumental music, prayer beads, and bowing before images have not been authorized by God for Christian worship. These practices

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## Editorial.....

### ARE YOU PROUD?

Those who are "proud" are listed in Romans 1:28-32 among the ones who "are worthy of death." All of us should be interested in learning what God's Word teaches about the "proud."

#### WHO ARE THE PROUD?

The word translated "proud" is defined in THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 41, as "showing one's self above others, pre-eminent, esp. in a bad sense, with an overweening estimate of one's means or merits, despising others or even treating them with contempt, haughty." VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS says "it is always used in Scripture in the bad sense of arrogant, disdainful, proud." It is translated "haughty" in some versions. The noun form of the word is translated "pride" in Mark 7:22 and is defined in THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 641, as "pride, haughtiness, arrogance." Mr. Thayer comments that it is "the characteristic of one, who, with a swollen estimate of his own powers or merits, looks down on others and even treats them with insolence and contempt." By way of summarizing, we can describe a "proud person" as one who thinks more highly of himself than he ought to think. He is arrogant, haughty, and disdainful and he looks down on others and often treats

them with contempt. Jesus taught in Mark 7:21-23 that PRIDE originates in the heart.

#### SOME ACTIONS OF THE PROUD

We can learn how those who are proud act if we will listen to God's revelation. Let us consider the following facts.

1. "The wicked, through the PRIDE of his countenance, WILL NOT SEEK AFTER GOD: God is not in all his thoughts." (Psalms 10:4).

2. "The wicked in his PRIDE DOTH PERSECUTE THE POOR .." (Psalms 10:2).

3. "Let the PROUD be ashamed; for they DEALT PERVERSELY with me without a cause ...." (Psalms 119:78).

4. "The PROUD HAVE HAD ME GREATLY IN DERISION ...." (Psalms 119:51).

5. The PROUD HAVE HID A SNARE for me, and CORDS; they HAVE SPREAD A NET by the wayside; they have SET GINS for me." (Psalms 140:5).

6. "The PROUD HAVE FORGED A LIE AGAINST ME .." (Psalms 119:69).

7. "He that is of a PROUD HEART, STIRRETH UP STRIFE ....." (Prov. 28:25).

8. "The PROUD "ERR" from God's commandments. (See Psalms 119:21).

9. The PROUD will not consent "to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness," but the PROUD are often excessively fond of "questions and strifes of words." (See 1 Tim. 6:3-4).

10. Sometimes PROUD MEN will accuse God's servants of "speaking falsely" when they are speaking God's Word. (See Jer. 43:1-4).

11. PRIDE may lift one up and cause one to "fall into the condemnation of the devil." (See 1 Tim. 3:6).

#### ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT PRIDE

1. "... the patient in spirit is better than the PROUD in spirit." (Ecc. 7:8).

2. "An high look, and a PROUD HEART, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin." (Prov. 21:4).

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3. **"PRIDE goeth before destruction, and AN HAUGHTY SPIRIT before a fall."** Prov. 16:18).

4. **"Only by PRIDE cometh contention . . ."** (Prov. 13:10).

5. **"When PRIDE cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom."** (Prov. 11:2).

6. **"A man's PRIDE shall bring him low . . ."** (Prov. 29:23).

**WHAT IS GOD'S ATTITUDE  
TOWARD THE PROUD?**

Among the six things that God hates, and the seven things that are an abomination to Him, is **"A PROUD LOOK."** (See Prov. 6:16-19). John tells us that **"the PRIDE of life is not of the Father, but is of the world."** (1 John 2:17). Jesus said: **"All these things (including PRIDE according to the preceding verses—Editor's note) come from within and they defile the man."** (Mark 7:23).

**"Every one that is PROUD IN HEART is an ABOMINATION to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."** (Prov. 16:5).

James tells us that **"GOD RESISTETH THE PROUD, but giveth grace unto the humble."** (James 4:6; See also 1 Peter 5:5-6). We learn from Prov. 15:25 that **"the Lord will DESTROY THE PROUD . . ."**

Malachi 4:1 says: **"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the PROUD, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."**

**ARE YOU PROUD?** If so, you are **"worthy of death"** according to Paul in Romans 1:28-32. However, there is a way of escape provided. One must **HUMBLE** himself and completely surrender his will to God's will. **PRIDE** must be crucified and completely laid aside. Wholeheartedly **SUBMISSION** to the Father's Will is absolutely necessary. **Are you willing to completely surrender your heart and life to Jesus Christ by obeying the gospel?** If not, you are **"too proud"** to go to heaven!

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have been introduced by men without God's authority. Jesus said that the teaching of men's doctrines makes worship vain. (Matt. 15:9).

7. Paul said he would rather speak five words that could be understood, than to speak 10,000 words in a tongue that was not understood. Would he have conducted a service in Latin before a congregation that spoke English? (1 Cor. 14:19).

8. Jesus loved His mother, Mary, but He taught plainly that every obedient disciple was as dear to Him as His own mother. (Matt. 12:46-50; Mk. 3:31-35; Lk. 8:19-21). Mary was not set forth as one to be worshipped, nor are we taught to pray to her, or to bow down before her or her image. We are to worship God.

9. The Scriptures foretell that some shall **"depart"** from the faith—**forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats.** Today, we are seeing this departure in churches that forbid their leaders to marry, and command the abstaining from meat on Friday. (1 Tim. 4:1-3). **(Editor's note:** It seems that the Catholic Church has changed somewhat on **"eating meat"** within the last few years.)

10. In regard to religious titles, Jesus said, **"Call no man father."** (Matt. 23:9). He also forbade His disciples to be called Rabbi or Master. (Matt. 23:8-12).

The use of religious titles is contrary to the plain teachings of the Bible. The great apostle Paul was referred to simply as **"brother Paul."** (2 Peter 3:15).

Congregations of Christians are referred to as **"churches of Christ"** in Roman's 16:16. They exist today, scriptural in name, organization, work, and worship. If we can persuade others to forsake religious error and return to Bible ways, God will be pleased.

—Originally printed by the **14th and Vine Church of Christ**, Abilene, Texas. **(Editor's note:** It is quite evident from the contents of the Bible that it is not a Roman Catholic Book!)

## ON GOD'S SIDE

In life, it is rather normal for people to be on a side. When people go to a tournament, even though the teams playing are not related to some of the spectators, the spectators cannot long remain neutral—they begin pulling for one side or the other. People who do not follow baseball through the long months of the season get interested in the world series each fall, and each one finds himself somewhat pulling for one of the teams to win.

But, in religion and some of the most vital issues of life, there are so many people who do not want to take sides, and they think it is terrible when others do. There were two sides at Mt. Sinai—those who worshipped the golden calf and those who didn't. Moses came down from the mountain and shouted, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The Lord had a side, and everybody should have been on His side. And, friends, the same is true today. We need to find the Lord's side in life and stand on that side with all our might, for that is what He would have us do.

—The Voice of Evangelism

## Not The End, But The Beginning

Baptism is not the end, but just the beginning of Christian life and service. It is only the consummation of the divine plan whereby we are adopted into the family of God. It is the act in which we "put on" Christ. (Gal. 3:26-27). But we ask, why "put on" Christ if we have no intention of "wearing" Him? To "put on" is only to begin to wear!

—Raymond Muncy in bulletin  
from Bloomington, Ind.

## ADDING TO

A preacher was telling that a man had argued that Lydia's household had to have infants in it. Another man said in reply, "Why no, Lydia had only one daughter, and she married a peg-leg man, and they never had any children." "I didn't know that," the man said; "where did you get that information? I never read that in the Bible." And the man replied, "The same place you got the idea you mentioned about there being infants in her household."

—The Voice of Evangelism

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## Sentence Sermons

Too many people study their neighbor's faults more closely than their Bibles.

Hammering hardens steel, but it crumbles putty — can you take it?

Some people would "walk a mile for a camel", but would not walk two blocks for "the Lamb of God."

When a little bird tells you something, make sure that bird was not a cuckoo.

Another thing the modern child learns at his mother's knee is to watch out for hot ashes.

Children should be taught more about the ROCK OF AGES, instead of the ages of the rocks.

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