

# 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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## SALVATION BY FAITH

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9). All who believe the Bible believe that man is saved by grace. This is as clearly taught as any Bible truth.

1. **What is grace?** Grace means "favor," "unmerited favor." Christ is the supreme expression of God's grace to man. This divine favor is revealed to man through the gospel of Christ. It is interesting to note the synonymous use of the words "grace" and "gospel" in the New Testament. For example: We are saved by grace; we are saved by the gospel. (Eph. 2:8; 1 Cor. 15:2). We stand in grace; we stand in the gospel. (Rom. 5:2; 1 Cor. 15:1). Grace appeared to all: gospel was preached to all. (Tit. 2:11; Col. 1:23). The word of grace; the word of the gospel. (Acts 20:32; 15:7). It is called "the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24). Hence, to be saved by grace is to be saved by the gospel; and no one can be saved by the gospel and not saved by grace.

2. **We are not saved by grace "alone."** Many times Eph. 2:8 has been quoted to "prove" that man is saved by grace "alone." If man is saved by grace alone, then all will be saved, "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to ALL men. (Tit. 2:11). Will all be saved, then? No; for some will be lost. (Matt. 25:46). We are saved by grace THROUGH FAITH. It is through faith that man appropriates God's grace. Man has access by faith into God's grace. (Rom. 5:2).

It is well to keep in mind that there are two sides in the plan of salvation: the **divine** side

and the **human** side. The divine side **provides** and **offers** salvation to all; the human side **accepts** upon the terms offered and **enjoys** salvation. The grace or goodness of God has brought salvation to us; hence, we are saved by grace. This grace is seen in the gift of Christ to the world, and in His providing the plan of human redemption. By God's grace salvation has been brought within the reach of all men, but men, however, must accept and appropriate this salvation by faith. And the kind of faith that saves is the faith that works by love. (Gal. 5:6; John 14:21). A faith that refuses to express itself in the keeping of the commands of the Lord is not the faith that saves. Man is not saved by faith "only." Is repentance included in salvation by grace through faith? All will admit that it is. Well, is baptism a part of salvation by grace through faith. Yes; for Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. To illustrate: I might offer a friend of mine one hundred dollars, but the gift would be of no value to him unless he accepted it and used it. Thus it is with the plan of salvation. Our Lord laid down specific terms, easy to be understood and obeyed, and promised to pardon the alien sinner upon his compliance with these terms. Man must accept by obeying these terms. They are: (1) faith in Christ, (2) repentance and (3) baptism in to the sacred named of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, following a confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. (Mk. 16:16; Actd 2:38; 8:37).

3. **"And that not of yourselves."** What is not of yourselves? Not faith; man can and must

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### Editorial — — — “Keep Thyself Pure”

In this letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul admonished him saying: “. . . **Keep thyself pure.**” (1 Timothy 5:22).

Timothy had been reared by his mother (Eunice) and grandmother (Lois) who had “**unfeigned faith.**” Their faith was genuine. It was pure. From a child Timothy was taught the Scriptures and he, too, had “**unfeigned faith.**” (See 2 Timothy 1:5, 15). He was Paul’s “son in the faith.” Paul addressed him as “. . . **Timothy, my true child in faith.**” (1 Tim. 1:2 ASV).

Paul charged Timothy to “**war a good warfare**” and to “**hold faith, and a good conscience.**” (1 Timothy 1:18-19). Paul wrote to him that he might know how he ought “**to behave**” himself “**in the house of God, which is the church of the living God.**” (See 1 Timothy 3:14-15). Timothy was admonished to “**take heed**” unto himself and unto the doctrine in order to save himself and those who heard him. (See 1 Timothy 4:16). He was told to “**rebuke before all**” those who sin “**that others also may fear.**” (See 1 Timothy 5:20). Timothy was charged to “**observe these thing**” without prejudice. He was **not** to “**be partaker of other men’s sins.**” Paul exhorted him saying: “. . . **keep thyself pure.**” (1 Tim. 5:22).

The expression, “**keep thyself pure**” means “**keep yourself free from sin.**” (NASV). This

implies that Timothy was free from sin and was responsible to keep himself pure. Timothy was urged in 1 Timothy 4:12 to be **an example “in purity.”**

Timothy could keep himself pure by **fleeing youthful lusts**” and **following** “**righeousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**” (See 2 Timothy 2:22). As one thinks in his heart, so is he. To be pure, one must think on things that are pure. One must be pure in heart because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. Our Lord said: “**But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: . . .**” (Matthew 15:18-20). Jesus also said: “**Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**” (Matthew 5:8). There is no way for a person to keep himself pure unless he keeps his heart pure.

In order for Timothy to keep himself pure, he would have to realize that “**the love of money is the root of all evil**” and be sure not to covet money. (See 1 Timothy 6:9-10). He would need to learn that “**godliness with contentment is great gain**” and “**having food and raiment**” therewith be content. (1 Timothy 6:6-8). Timothy was **exhorted** to “**flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith love, patience, meekness.**” (1 Timothy 6:11). Paul **charged** Timothy to “**fight the good fight of faith**” and “**lay hold on eternal life.**” (See 1 Timothy 6:12).

Timothy could not keep himself pure unless he **practiced** what he learned to be right.

In order for us to keep ourselves pure we must **purify** our souls by obeying the truth. (See 1 Peter 1:22). The truth teaches us to **believe**, (Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31), **repent**, (Acts 17:30-31; Acts 3:19), **confess** our faith in Jesus Christ, (Romans 10:9-10), and **be baptized** for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:27). After we are purified from past sins, we should **keep ourselves pure**. In order to keep ourselves pure, we must **be pure in heart**. We must **think purity** in order to remain pure. We should “**flee**” lusts and “**follow**” righteousness, faith, love and patience and we should “**fight**” the good fight of faith! It should be the desire of each of us to be “**an example**” in PURITY. In order to see God, **we must keep ourselves pure!**

(CRS)

## Please, Mommy, Remember

- ... That I am a gift from God, the richest of all blessings. Do not attempt to mold me in your image, my daddy's, brother's, or our neighbor's. I am an individual and should be permitted to be myself.
  - ... Not to crush my spirit when I fall. Don't compare me with others who outshine me.
  - ... Remember that anger and hostility are natural emotions. Help me to find outlets for these normal feelings—in play or physical exercise—or they may be turned inward and become deeper and much more serious.
  - ... To discipline me with firmness and reason. Do not let your anger throw you off balance. If I know you are fair, you will not lose my respect or my love.
  - ... Remember that each child needs two parents. When you side with me against daddy, I have had feelings of guilt, confusion and insecurity.
  - ... Don't hand me everything my little heart desires. That way I will never know the thrill of earning, the joy of deserving.
  - ... Please don't make threats in anger or impossible promises when you are in a generous mood. To me your word means everything. When I can't believe in you and dad, I have difficulty believing in anything.
  - ... Remember that there is dignity in hard work, whether it is performed with calloused hands that shovel coal or skilled fingers that manipulate surgical instruments. Let me know that a useful life is a blessed one, and that a life of ease, and pleasure-seeking is empty and meaningless.
  - ... Do not try to protect me against every small blow and disappointment. Adversity strengthens character and makes us compassionate. Trouble is the great equalizer; let me learn.
  - ... Teach me to love God and our fellow men, and, Mommy don't send me to worship service and Bible school—take me there.
- Taken from BROADWAY BULLETIN.

### NOT WORTH VERY MUCH

Until a youth takes as eager an interest in his vocation as in his vacation, he is not worth very much..

## ENVY

Paul listed "envyings" as one of the works of the flesh in Gal. 5:21. "Envy" is resentful begrudging; discontent at another's possessing what one would like for himself. Preachers often display envy. One is resentful because another's work appears more successful. An elder may be envious because another elder has more ability. Envy is sometimes found in "high places" (please pardon the expression) in the church. But wherever it appears, it is still sin.

Solomon hit the nail on the head when he wrote by inspiration, "A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones." (Prov. 14:30). ———Taken from THE HAZELWOOD REMINDER.

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### SALVATION BY GRACE

believe. (John 6:29; 8:24). **Salvation** is not of ourselves.

4. "It is the gift of God." **Salvation** is the gift of God. Man accepts this gift by compliance with the Lord's terms of pardon. God is the giver: salvation is offered through Christ. Man is the recipient; he receives the gift through faith, a faith that obeys. Man must be willing to take the gift; God does not force it upon him.

5. "Not of works lest any man should boast." Man does not earn or merit salvation. If he could perform works of merit and thereby merit salvation, he could boast. Yet man must come and comply with the terms of the gospel of the grace of God to receive the gift of salvation. But in so doing he does not perform his own works, or the works of the law, he obeys God, and is disqualified from boasting. To say that this passage means that man must do absolutely nothing to be saved would plainly contradict other passages of Scripture that clearly teach man must obey the Lord to be saved. (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Acts 10:35). Any explanation of God's word that contradicts some other part of the Scripture is wrong! We do not merit salvation, but we must do the things God said do to get it.

How kind and compassionate is our dear Savior to offer to forgive us of our sins, and how ungrateful man must be to refuse to come and accept His gracious pardon, when so freely offered!

——Perry B. Cotham in GOSPEL DIGEST

# A Voice From The Past

## WHO IS GUILTY?

Certain persons, in whose hearts the spirit of the age seems to be supplanting the Spirit of Christ, are bold to say, in substance, that they who do no more than the Lord commands, and who positively refuse to countenance innovation, are schismatics. But this is the doctrine, not of reason and Scripture, but of folly and papal apostasy. It is he who makes a new institution and contends for it that makes the schism! These words ought to be pondered by every progressionist in the land. No matter what th institution is-- be it infant sprinkling, instrumental music, or "societyism," he who introduces it and contends for it, without the express authority of God's Word is a schismatic, all the protestations he may make to the contrary notwithstanding. It is not they who are obeying the Lord's commandments, but they who are fashioning the golden calves, and setting them up in the camp, that are making the present confusion in Israel.

---L.F. Bittle in APOSTOLIC MESSENGER,

June, 1918.

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

It has been more than **three months** since we **challenged Albert Hill** to get some other "elders" to take the place of West Hobbs Street if **they** are the reason that the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE has not been re-scheduled. As of now, we have received NO WORD **WHATEVER** from **Albert Hill**. Does this possibly suggest that **Albert Hill** is **not** waiting on th "**elders**" at Hobbs Street? Could it be that **Albert Hill** simply **does NOT want** and **does NOT intend** to have the debate anywhere under any conditions? Time will tell. We are still waiting, and we are still **willing** and **anxious** to "put to the test" in public discussion some of the practices of West Hobbs Street Church.

**Albert**, if you have any conviction whatever, step up like a man and defend in open discussion your doctrine and practices! We have no intention of dropping this matter here!

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## Sentence Sermons

Many children are "spoiled" because parents won't spank grandma and grandpa.

Some people get into pretty deep water while they are trying to make a splash.

If "revenge is sweet," why does it leave such a bitter taste?

Money does not make a fool of a man, but it does grease the skids if he wants to make a fool of himself.

Some people are like vinegar, the older they become, the more they sour.

Everyone has the right to express an opinion, however, no one has the right to expect everyone else to listen.

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