

# 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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## THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

The gospel of Christ is the good news of Christ. After telling the Corinthians that he would declare the gospel unto them Paul said, ".....that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures ....." (1 Cor. 15:3-4). In Gal. 1:4 the apostle said that Jesus Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world ....." This is evidently the gospel of Christ.

Certainly not all the gospel is included here for Peter asks, "...what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?" (1 Pet. 4:17). We are also told that Jesus is coming back to earth to take vengeance on them that do not obey the gospel. (2 Thess. 1:8). Since there are no commands in either of the above passages they cannot be obeyed. The commands of the gospel are to be found elsewhere.

### WHAT THE GOOD NEWS IS

"Gospel" as used here is a figure of speech in which a significant part is spoken of as the whole. These are the outstanding facts in the good news of Jesus.

In giving Himself Jesus did more than die for men—He lived for men. It was for us that He left heaven to become a servant among men. It was for us that He left His home in Nazareth to teach people a new way of life. His whole earth life was a life of sacrifice.

The death of Jesus would not have been good news had it not been for a definite purpose—"for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world." This does not mean that He will take us out of the world, but that He will keep us from evil and sanctify us through the Word of God (John 17:11, 14-17), thus saving us from worldly worries and the awful consequences of sin by teaching us to avoid every kind of sin.

Unlike the law of Moses, under which there was "a remembrance again made of sins every year," Christ promises us that He will remember our sins and iniquities no more. (Heb. 10:1-4, 15-17). This complete forgiveness of sins is certainly good news.

Isaiah said that all nations would come unto the "mountain of the Lord's house," (Isa. 2:2), and that Christ would be "a light to the Gentiles." (Isa. 49:5-6) When Jesus gave the great commission

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## Editorial.....

### "He That Hateth His Brother"

In spite of the fact that Christians are **"taught of God to love one another"** (1 Thess. 4:9), and to **"be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love"** (Rom. 12:10), it is quite evident that **"hatred"** occupies a place in the hearts of many who claim to be Christians. Although they profess **"love in word and in tongue,"** they deny by their actions that true love exists. Love can be known only by the fruit it produces. The fruit of many is not produced by a heart of love, but by a heart of hatred.

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS, Vol. 2, p. 198, says **"to hate,** is used esp. of malicious and unjustifiable feelings towards others, whether toward the innocent or by mutual animosity....." WEBSTER defines **"hatred"** as a **"strong aversion or detestation coupled with ill-will."** We can readily see that **"hatred"** is an attitude or resentment, ill-will or bitterness.

#### IN DARKNESS

John tells us that **"he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whether he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes."** (1 John 2:11). One who

**"loveth his brother abideth in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him."** (1 John 2:10). One who follows Jesus will not walk in darkness, but **"shall have the light of life."** (See John 8:12). **"He that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth."** (John 12:35). Light has no communion with darkness. Men who are evil love darkness rather than light. The Word of God is plain. If you hate your brother, **you are in darkness, and walk in darkness and that darkness has blinded your eyes. You cannot see. YOU ARE BLIND!**

#### A LIAR

1 John 4:20 says: **"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"** The Word of God is plain. If you hate your brother, you are a liar! It is inconsistent for a man to claim to love God while hating his brother. If you hate a brother, you hate one who has been made in the likeness of God. If you hate your brother, and claim to love God, **YOU ARE A LIAR!**

#### A MURDERER

We are told in 1 John 3:15 that **"whoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."** The sin of murder lies in the inward attitude, of which the overt act is only the outward expression. Lusting after a woman constitutes adultery in the heart. Hatred is murder in the heart. If you hate your brother, **YOU ARE A MURDERER.**

#### ABIDETH IN DEATH

We learn from 1 John 3:14 that **"we know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."** Do you love the brethren? The Word of God is plain. If you do not love the brethren **YOU ABIDE IN DEATH! YOU DO NOT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE ABIDING IN YOU!**

Brethren, Jesus said: **"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates**

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## THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

He said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk. 16:15). God told Ananias that Paul was "a chosen vessel to bear my name before the Gentiles." (Acts 9:15). At Antioch in Pisidia Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles. (Acts 13:46). It is certainly good news to us that the Gentiles can be children of God as well as Jews. It is indeed a blessing to the world that "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

## SOME COMMANDS OF THE GOSPEL

Jesus said to His disciples, "... ye believe in God, believe also in me." (John 14:1). Again He said, "... if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (John 8:24). In the Hebrew letter we read, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6).

From these Scriptures it is clear that one of the commands of the gospel is the command to believe or have faith in Jesus as the Christ. But James says, "Thou believeth that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (James 2:19-20). So faith alone is not enough. It must be followed by obedience to the other commands of the gospel.

Men are also commanded to repent. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent." (Acts 17:30). On the day of Pentecost Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). In this passage men are not only commanded to repent but also to be baptized. Saul of Tarsus was told, "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins." (Acts 22: 16).

When one obeys these commands he is saved from his past sins for Jesus

said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk 16:16). Peter told those who asked him what they should do, "Repent, and be baptized for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). When one is saved the Lord adds him to the church. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). These are the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, the gospel.

"Wherefore leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection." (Heb. 6:1—R.V.). This is also a command of the gospel. To please the Lord we must obey this command as well as those commands that put us into Christ. Obedience to this command includes obedience to many, many other commands in the gospel. In fact it includes all those commands to Christians about how to live the Christian life. Failure to obey any of the commands of the gospel will cause the Lord to take vengeance on the person who thus fails and will cause him to be "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2 Thess. 1:8-9).

—Elam B. Kuykendall

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## HE THAT HATETH HIS BROTHER

into the city. For without are dogs, and sôcerers, and whoremongers, and MURDERS, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a LIE." (Rev. 22:14-15). He also said: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and MURDERS, and whoremongers, and sôcerers, and idolaters, and ALL LIARS shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (Rev. 21:7-8). Please remember that if you hate your brother, YOU ARE A LIAR, A MURDERER, BLIND, IN DARKNESS AND ABIDETH IN DEATH! Unless you remove all hatred from your heart, YOU WILL HAVE YOUR PART IN ETERNAL HELL!

(CRS)

# THE ORIGIN OF THE "SPONSORING" CHURCH

"In sponsoring a missionary, a church simply underwrites his support. It is therefore, responsible to the missionary for the amount it takes for his maintenance and it is also responsible to any brethren, who may be willing to help the missionary, for the missionary's soundness, for his Christian character, and for his qualifications as a missionary. This whole idea was born because of a very sad condition that existed in the brotherhood forty or fifty years ago ....."

Who wrote that? The late G. C. Brewer. (*Gospel Advocate*, August 27, 1953, page 544). If anyone is an authority on the matter, Brother Brewer was. He said that the sponsoring church arrangement began "forty or fifty years ago." That means it began about 1900 years too late to be of the New Testament or apostolic order of things.

You can see how all of these modern "sponsoring" church arrangements are innovations. They are modern in origin, devilish in their divisive effect on the body of the Lord, and powerful in their influence and control of "brotherhood" affairs.

—William E. Wallace in  
KENTUCKY BIBLE BANNER,  
January, 1959

## Overheard In The Trees

"Said the sparrow to the robin,  
'I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so.'

"Said the robin to the sparrow,  
'Friend, I think it must be  
That they have no heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me.'"

—Author unknown

(Editor's Note: Enough Said!)

**A PUBLIC DISCUSSION** — A series of public discussions has been scheduled for July 16, 17, 19, 20, 1973 at the **Neighborhood Center** in Albertville on Holy Spirit baptism and spiritual gifts. The disputants will be E. J. Reynolds, a preacher of the Church of God denomination and Carrol R. Sutton.

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## Sentence Sermons

It is not the talented people who serve the Lord best, but the consecrated ones.

The greatest need is not to add years to our life, but to add life to our years.

It may be "nice" to be important, but it is more important to be nice.

False teeth may be justified, but there is no justification for a false tongue.

A gossip serves as a postman for Satan.

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