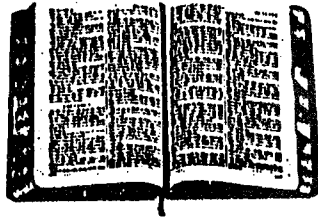


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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HOW MAY A PERSON KNOW HE IS SAVED?

The Word of God speaks of a person being saved from past sins (i.e., having alien or past sins forgiven or remitted or blotted out) and it speaks of being saved eternally in heaven.

A PRESENT SALVATION

This present salvation is the result of our being saved from our past or alien sins. Read the following passages.

2 Tim. 1:9 says: "Who (God-CRS) hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling..."

Titus 3:5 says: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."

NOTE: In these two verses we have "saved" in past tense.

1 Cor. 1:18 says: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

Eph. 2:8-9 says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith;..."

Acts 2:47b says: "...And the Lord added to the church daily such

as should be saved." {The NKJV says: "...those who were being saved."

NOTE: We can see from these verses that these early Christians had a present salvation from their past sins. Also see Acts 11:14; Mk. 16:15-16.

We have this present salvation *now* in actuality! We have been washed in the blood of Christ and thus cleansed of our past sins!

A FUTURE SALVATION

Rom. 5:9-10 says: "Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him...much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (13:11) says: ...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."

2 Tim. 2:10 says: "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." Also see Heb. 5:9; 10:39; 1 Pet. 1:9. NOTE: These verses deal with a future salvation in heaven.

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Editorial...

SOME SINS OFTEN OVERLOOKED (NO. 6)

Many who claim to be Christians often overlook many sins. 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 or it may be for other reasons. Let us continue our study of some sins often overlooked.

XXIII. THE SIN OF DISSIMULATION IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED! The sin of *dissimulation* is, no doubt, a prevalent one. It is certainly possible that you (and I) are guilty of this sin.

"*Dissimulation*" is *pretence* or *hypocrisy*. The word translated "*dissimulation*" is rendered "*hypocrisy*" in the NKJV, ASV and the NASV.

In Gal. 2:11-14 Paul rebuked the apostle Peter because of his "*dissimulation*". Other Jews "dissembled" likewise with him (Peter) and even Barnabas "was carried away with their dissimulation". Paul mentioned the fact that "they walked not

uprightly according to the truth of the gospel" in acting hypocritically.

In Mt. 6:1-18 Jesus admonished His disciples to *not be like hypocrites* when they do alms, pray and fast. We must *not* do alms before men to be seen of them that we may "**have glory of men**" as hypocrites do. We must *not* be as hypocrites are when we *pray*. We must *not pray* that we may "**be seen of men**". We must *not fast* that we may "**appear unto men to fast**". When we *fast* we must *not* be as hypocrites, of a sad countenance, that we "**may appear unto men to fast**", but we must *anoint our heads and wash our faces* that we "**appear not unto men to fast**." Otherwise we will not be openly rewarded by the Father.

Jesus pronounced a "woe" unto *hypocrites* in Mt. 23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29 and in Luke 11:44 because of their inconsistencies and *hypocrisies*. Some would draw nigh unto God with their mouths and honour him with their lips, but their hearts were far from God. Their worship was in vain. They taught for doctrines the commandments of men. (See Mt. 15:7-9).

Based on the teaching in Mt. 24:42-51 the "*portion*" for *hypocrites* will include "*weeping and gnashing of teeth*."

Today, there are many hypocrites. They go about "**speaking lies in hypocrisy**" when it will serve their selfish ends (cf. 1 Tim. 4:2). A *hypocrite* cannot be trusted. He is "two-faced". He can speak words as smooth as butter and as sweet as honey although there is hatred or malice in his heart. He can embrace a person with his arms while pretending to love. However, when he removes his arms from around a person's back, figuratively speaking, he may have a "dagger" in his hands dripping with blood.

Proverbs 11:9 says: "An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered."

Our love must be *genuine*! It must be *unfeigned*! It must be *without hypocrisy*! In Romans 12:9 Paul said: "Let love be without dissimulation." In 1 Peter 1:22 Peter said: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently." *Pretence (hypocrisy)* has no place in the heart of a true Christian! In 1 Pet. 2:1-2 Peter exhorted saints, saying: "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." We learn from James 3:17 that "...the wisdom that is from above is...without hypocrisy." Obviously, the wisdom that brings about hypocrisy "is earthly, sensual, devilish."

People who lie, deceive in other ways, give false reports, mislead, claim undue credit, embezzle funds, sneak around behind the backs of their spouses, brethren and friends and engage in immoral acts are *hypocrites*!

Let each of us carefully examine our thoughts, words and actions and make sure that we are *not overlooking the sin of dissimulation*!

XXIV. THE SIN OF BANQUETINGS IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED. In 1 Pet. 4:3-4 Peter said: "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you." NOTE: In this passage Peter mentions "banquetings" as one of the sinful activities that they had

walked in prior to their turning to God to do His will. Peter is not here condemning the fact that people may have "an elaborate and often ceremonious meal" in honor of a person as we ordinarily use the word "banquet."

The word translated "*banquetings*" is defined by New Strong's Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament as "a *drinking-bout* or *carousal*:- banqueting." W.E. Vine says, "lit., a drinking, signifies not simply a banquet but a drinking bout, a carousal, 1 Pet. 4:3." Thayer's Lexicon says: "a *drinking, carousing*: 1 Pet. 4:3." In Synonyms of the NT by R.C. Trench we read: "The drinking bout, the banquet, the symposium, not of necessity excessive (Gen. 19:3; 2 Samuel 3:20; Esther 6:14), but giving opportunity for excess."

The above definitions would certainly describe what we know to day as "social drinking (of intoxicants)". This would not of necessity mean that each person present would drink excessively, but it would provide an opportunity for such. *To further see that an "excess of wine" is not necessarily involved in "banquetings"*, let note the fact that 1 Pet. 4:3 lists "*excess of wine*" along with "*banquetings*". Obviously, there is a difference between "*banquetings*" and "*excess of wine*." In view of what the word "*banquetings*" means, a person would be hard pressed to prove that it is alright to drink intoxicants socially as long as he does not drink excessively. Of course, other principles must also be considered such as the obligation we have to be "*the salt of the earth*" and "*the light of the world*." (See Mt. 5:13-16). We must also consider the fact that we are to be proper examples before others. (See 1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:6-8). Neither should we cause a weak brother to stumble or offend. (See 1 Cor. 8:7-12).

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 1)

We have it *now in promise* (1 Jno. 2:25) and *now in hope* (Titus 1:2). We will receive it *in actuality* and *in possession in the world to come* (Mk. 10:30).

HOW MAY WE KNOW?

1. NOT BY HUMAN TRADITIONS OR COMMANDMENTS OF MEN. See Jer. 10:23; Isa. 55:8-9; Prov. 14:12; Mt. 15:7-9; Titus 1:13-14.

2. NOT BY MERELY LIVING A GOOD MORAL LIFE. GOD REQUIRES US TO LIVE RIGHT MORALLY, BUT MORALITY ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT. See Titus 2:11-12; Heb. 12:14; Jas. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:16; Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17. *Cornelius is an example of a good moral man who needed to be saved.* See Acts 10:11; 11:14; Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:16.

3. NOT BY "HONESTY" ALONE. One must be honest (see Rom. 12:17), "honesty" alone will not save. It did not save Saul of Tarsus. (See Acts 9:1-6; 22:19-20; Acts 22:16).

4. NOT BY OUR FEELINGS! Our feelings are no evidence of salvation, but are a result of our beliefs, whether they are true or not.

Cf. the fact that Jacob felt like his son Joseph was dead, but he was alive. (Gen. 37:33-35). Saul felt like he was saved but he wasn't.

5. NOT BY OUR CONSCIENCE! The conscience is *not* the standard to determine whether we are saved or lost. Read carefully what Saul did. (Acts 9:1-6; 22:19-20; 26:9-11). Although he did all those evil things he said: "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

6. WE CAN KNOW THAT WE ARE SAVED BY WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE SCRIPTURES! In 1 John 5:13 the apostle John declared: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." NOTE: *We can only know by what is written!* (CRS) (To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

EAST ALBERTVILLE with *Carrol R. Sutton* preaching *December 2-7, 2001 at 7:00 PM* Monday through Friday. Services will be at *9:30 am, 10:30 AM & 6:00 PM* on the Lord's Day. Please make plans to attend. Tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

The sunlight of love will kill all the germs of jealousy, bitterness and hatred.

* * * * *

"Poverty with integrity is better than riches with dishonesty." ---Mike Willis

* * * * *

If God is your Co-pilot, it is time to swap seats. He should be your Pilot!

* * * * *

It takes faith to plan ahead and do God's will. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

* * * * *

To be almost saved in heaven is to be totally lost in hell!

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