THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, of reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

Volume 13

OCTOBER, 1976

Number 10

"LET NO MAN"

There is one admonition of the Holy Spirit to Christians that is repeated several times in the New Testament, and each time it begins with these words: "LET NO MAN.." Although it begins the same way the admonition considers different areas of warning. Let us briefly consider five of these areas.

"Let no man therefore JUDGE you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of a feast day of in a new moon or a sabbath day..." (Col. 2:16). If I understand this passage, we should not let others use their human standards and traditions in judging us. God is the only one "with whom we have to do," or to whom we have to answer, and, therefore, His word is the only correct basis or standard for judging or measuring any human conduct.

"Let no man DESPISE thy youth;..." (1 Tim. 4:12; cf. Titus 2:15). It is true that we cannot keep people from despising us for our "youth," righteousness, love for the truth, uncompromising spirit, etc., but we can keep it from "getting us down" or discouraging us from living the life of a Christian.

Man can be "deceived" from two sources: hence, the Holy Spirit warns against the same in the following language: "Let no man DECEIVE you with empty words:..." The word "deceive," as used here, means "to cheat, beguile," "to seduce into error," even as Eve was. (1 Tim. 2:14). It is bad enough to be deceived by others, but what about this

warning: "Let no man DECEIVE himself. If any man thinketh that he is wise among you in this world, let him become a fool, that he may become wise." (1 Cor. 3:18).

"My little children, let no man LEAD YOU ASTRAY...." (1 John 3:7). i.e. to cause you to wander away from the paths of righteousness. The same idea of being "led astray" is taught in the following passages by the use of the word "deceived:" "Be not DECEIVED: evil companionships corrupt good morals." (1 Cor. 15:33). "Be not DECEIVED: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with men, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kindom of God." (1 Cor. 6:9-10). And again, "Be not DECEIVED; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7).

Finally, "let no man ROB YOU of your prize by a voluntary humility and worshipping of the angels, dwelling in the things which hath seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast the Head," (Col. 2:18-19). If we lose our prize, crown, or "birthright," it will be because of one of two reasons. We have either allowed others to "rob" us, i.e. to "take" it from us, (Rev. 3:11), or we have "sold" it ourselves for a "mess or pottage." (Heb. 12:16f; Gen. 25:33f).

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting on Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in Albertville, Ala. 35950

Editoral - - -

He Spake Unadvisedly

In discussing Israel's rebellion against God, the Psalmist said: "They angered him also at the waters of strife (ASV says: "Meribah"), so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: because they provoked his spirit, so that HE SPAKE UNADVISEDLY with his lips." (Psalms 106:33). For a fuller discussion of these matters, you can read Numbers 20:1-12.

The Israelites were in the desert of Zin and abode in Kadesh. There was no water for the congregation and they gathered themselves against Moses and Aaron and chode (i.e., stroe or contended angrily and noisily) with Moses. Moses and Aaron left the assembly and went to the door of the tabernacle and fell on their faces and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.

The Lord told Moses to "take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink." The instructions were simple. The commands of God were plainly given. Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly before the rock as God had commanded. However, instead of speaking to the rock as God had commanded, Moses spoke to the people saying: "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch

water out of this rock?" And Moses smote the rock twice with his rod. Although water was provided, God was displeased with Moses and Aaron because they disobeyed His voice. Moses SPAKE UNADVISEDLY with his lips!

There are many ways that one may speak unadvisedly with his lips and various reasons for so doing. No one is ever justified in so speaking regardless of how or why he may do so.

IN SPEAKING UNADVISEDLY, Moses spoke to the people instead of speaking to the rock. God had commanded Moses to "speak unto the rock before their eyes." However, Moses spake unto the people. He did not obey God. He could have "rationalized" that since the rock could not see nor hear, it would be foolish to speak to it. He could have "rationalized" that since this was such a small matter, it really would make no difference anyway. Although there is no evidence in the Text that Moses tried to "rationalize" away God's command, there are many people today who do "rationalize" away simple commands of God. For example: God has commanded the alien sinner to "be baptized for the remission of sins," (cf. Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Mark 16:15-16), but many people will "reason" that since baptism is a physical act that it has nothing to do with salvation from past sins, or they may "rationalize" that this is such a small matter that it really makes no difference anyway. The same type "reasoning" may be used (and often times it is so used) in an effort to invalidate God's teaching in other areas. Such "reasoning" is never justified!

We need to learn well this lesson: When God said "speak unto the rock," He meant "speak unto the rock." He did not mean merely to "speak." He meant "speak unto the rock." He did not mean "speak unto the people." He meant "speak unto the rock!" Today, when God says through His word to "be baptized for the remission of sins," He does not mean "be baptized because you are already saved." He means "be baptized for the remission of sins!"

IN SPEAKING UNADVISEDLY, Moses spoke in anger, it seems. Apparently, he spoke unadvisedly because they provoked his spirit. Although Moses may have been provoked and angered, he did wrong in speaking unadvisedly with his lips.

Many people speak unadvisedly because

(Continued on page 3)

HE SPAKE UNADVISEDLY

someone or something makes them angry. Christians are responsible for their words. We will be either justified or condemned by our words. (cf. Matthew 12:36-37). There is no justification for us when we speak unadvisedly with our lips. James says: ".. let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19).

IN SPEAKING UNADVISEDLY, Moses was reacting to murmuring. The Israelites "strove" or "chode" with Moses and Aaron. They criticized Moses and Aaron and murmured against God. It seems that they contended angrily and noisily. Although Moses' speaking was obviously in reaction to criticism and idignant complaining, the Psalmist said it was "unadvisedly" done.

Our reaction to criticism and murmuring may be such that we **speak unadvisedly.** With such speaking God is not well pleased. The unrighteous actions of others do not justify our ungodly deeds. We must control our spirits and govern our thoughts and bridle our tongues even though others may criticize us and murmur against God.

IN SPEAKING UNADVISEDLY, Moses indicated that he did not believe God to sanctify him in the eyes of the Israelites. In speaking to the people instead of speaking to the rock as God had commanded, Moses disobyed God. God said unto Moses and Aaron: "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel,..." Disobedience indicates a lack of faith. On this occasion Moses did not have enough faith to do what God had commanded.

Whether one is an alien sinner or a child of God, he must have enough faith to God's will. Man is never justified in setting aside God's will in any matter or under any circumstance.

IN SPEAKING UNADVISEDLY, Moses sacrificed the privilege of leading Israel into the promised land. God said: "Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall NOT bring this congregation into the land which I have given them." Moses was denied the privilege of going into the land of Canaan because of his disobedience. God had said: "speak unto the rock," but Moses did not speak to the rock, He spake to the people. In so doing, he spake unadvisedly.

Obedience to God, speaking and doing as God advises, brings blessings. Disobedience

brings cursing. Let us not "speak unadvisedly" for in so doing, we will sacrifice blessings and receive cursings.

(CRS)

AS THE TWIG IS BENT

A little girl with shining eyes
Her little face aglow
Said: "Daddy, it is almost time
For Bible school, let's go.
They teach us there of Jesus' love,
Of how He died for all
Upon the cruel cross to save
Those who on Him will call."

"Oh, no," said Daddy, "not today, I've worked hard all this week And I must have one day of rest I'm going to the creek For there I can relax and rest And fishing's fine they say. So run along, don't bother me. We'll go to church someday."

Months and years have passed away But Daddy hears that plea no more; Let's go to Bible school," Those childhood days are o'er. And now that Daddy's growing old When life is almost through, He finds the time to go to church. But what does daughter do? She says: "Oh, Daddy, not today— I stayed up most all night, And I've just got to have some sleep, Besides, I look a fright." Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand To brush away the tears As again he hears the pleading voice Distinctly through the years. He sees a small girl's shining face Upturned with eyes aglow As she says: "It's time for Bible school. Please, Daddy, won't you go? Author unknown

(Continued from page 1)

LET NO MAN

Brethren, it behooves us to take heed to such spiritaul warnings. In fact, our eternal distiny depends upon it.

---Victor H. Sellers in
THE PRESTON REPORTER

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT A	ND CIRCULATION	SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2 (REVERSE)
(Act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United	States Code)	2. DATE OF FILING
#THE INSTRUCTOR#		
Monthly L'incation of enough office of publication (sings, 419, 4004)		
Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertyil	le, Marshall, A	Labama 35950
Route 3. Highway 437 South, Albertvill	e. Marshall. Als SEDITOR	авала 35950
CSL(SHER Plane and address)		
EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST, Rt. Carrol R. Sutton, 1103 Edmondson St.,		35950.
MANAGER EDITOR (Name and Address)	ALDEL CIZILET A	227727
5. OPINES OF comed by a surposation, his mane and address must be a	nated and also immediately the	reunder the names and addresses of
Rechholder duming or holding I percent or more of total amount of rio	ck. If not award by a corporat	Syn, the numer and addressed of the
individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other to individual must be given.)	tincorporated firm, litt name a	nd address, as well as that of each
NAME	AD	ORESS
Same as publisher		
E. KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGES, AND OTHER SECURIT	HOLDERS OWNING OR HO	LDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF
TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES;		nerss
None		DR459
B. FOR OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MAILING AT THE		
TOR OPPOWAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHER MAILING AT THE SO U.S. O. SEED provides in retirent part. "Visi assens this would have seen may and retirent at the state provided under this appearance permanent to real interest at the state provided under this appearance permanent to real interest at their space. The state permanent permanent of the state permanent in the state permanent permanent in the state permanent permanent in the state permanent per	been entitled to mail matter un as he files encuelly with the I	váer former section 4359 of this title Portal Service a written request for
IN TOR OPPOWAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MAILING AT THE SM U. S. C. SSES provides to partitions part. "We assess make wealth laws shall make such marker at the same provided under this patholic ma- laring and patholic markers."	been ensisted to mail routier un au he tiles ensoully widt the i ston so med the publicedum ner	oder former section 4358 of this kide focial Service a written request for may in from 1 at the reduced postage
FOR OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MALLING AT THE SO U.S. C. 5356 provides to perform part. "All partners who would have presented to the provided provided to the provided partners and presentations for individual providing of the basis of the provided partners provided by the provided partners of the provided partners and the provided partners	been entitled to mail matter un se he tiles enoughly with the I ston so met the published an ner ED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL II	oder former section 4358 of this kide focial Service a written request for may in from 1 at the reduced postage
1. TON OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHED MAILURE AT THE SM O. S. O. SME showers to printed by the "The person who would have presented for an ideal to a facility of the "The person who would have presented for an ideal to a facility of the "The "The person who would have presented for an ideal to a facility of the "The "The "The "The "The "The "The "T	been entitled to mail matter un se he filse enough with the in- sion so mell the publice danner from so mell the publice danner ED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL II (Charle over)	oder frommer medition 4255 of this title Perial Service a written request for many in ryum 1 at the reduced portage IAYES pilenteen 133122, Custol/Manus (If changed, positions must project augispacifies of phases with this interment.)
TO CONTROLL COMPLITION BY PUBLISHED MATERIAL AT THE BUSINESS OF THE PUBLISHED AND THE PUBLISHED AT THE BUSINESS OF THE PUBLISHED AND THE PUBLISHED AT THE BUSINESS OF THE PUBLISHED AND THE PUBL	been entitled to much matter up as he files enoughly wide the I store to much the published on the I store to much the published on the I store to much the published on the I store that I	oder former section 4383 of this title retail derives a vertice required for the property of the property of the page of the property of the JF changed, positioner most with this determinal, and this determinal and this property of any page of the SET TOT FURL SHOULD WEAR SET TOT FURL SHOULD WEAR SHOULD W
The Composition Constitution of the Constituti	been entitled to mail matter up as he filled excupilly with the in participation has been as made the purities and has been as the property of the participation of the participa	oder frommer medition 4255 of this title Perial Service a written request for many in ryum 1 at the reduced portage IAYES pilenteen 133122, Custol/Manus (If changed, positions must project augispacifies of phases with this interment.)
TO THE OPPOSENT COMPLETION BY PUBLISHERS MAKING AT THE ASSETTION BY A SECOND BY PUBLISHERS MAKING AT THE SECOND BY A SECOND BY	been entitled to mad matter up to the he like security with the 1 security with 1 secu	oder former eine Glon 4285 of this title stead Scrives is written request for record for the resonant professe JAMES (phenom 13322), PersonName JF changed, publisher most JF changed,
TO CONTROL COMPLITOR SYPERISHED SAFELY AT THE STATE OF TH	been entitled to mail metter of an in the second of the se	CHEST OF CHE
1. TON OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHESS MATING AT THE SUL AS A SECOND STREET, THE SECOND	been excelled to mad mother or to the term of the term	CALL STATES AND CONTROL OF CONTROL OT CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTRO
A TOO OPPOINT COMPLITION BY PUBLISHED MAKEURA THE AND	been wrothed to mail regime or to the first and the first and the properties of the first and the properties of the first and the properties of the first and the first an	AMES (Mental American State Constitution of the Constitution of th
TO CONTROLL COMPLITION BY PUBLISHED MATERIAL AT THE BURN AND THE STATE OF THE STATE	Leave collect or and control or and	week and the SERE of the and the series of t
IL TORI OPPOUAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHES MATURE AT THE SEA OF A PART OF THE PUBLISHES OF MATURE AT THE SEA OF THE PUBLISHES OF	Learn colonial to use in commercial to the control of the colonial to use in the colonial t	weet and the second of the sec
IL TOTA OPTIONAL COMPLETION BY PUBLISHES MATING AT THE SOL N. C. SERS process to profession fact. The comment was worth at SOL N. C. SERS process to profession fact. The comment was worth the SOL N. C. SERS process to profession fact. The comment was worth the SOL N. C. SERS process to profession fact. The SOL N. C. SERS process to profession fact. The SOL N. C. SERS process to the SOL N. C. S	Less could be rail and could be recovered by the country of the co	weet and a second of the secon

GEORGE MACDONALD SAID: "Division has done more to hide Christ from the view of men than all the infidelity that has ever been spoken."

Honesty and Sincerity

Honesty and sincerity do not galvanize error into truth nor does unbelief subvert truth to the ranks of error. Some seem to think this. They assume that if error is honestly and sincerely believed in religion that it becomes truth and produces the same blessings and benefits. On the other hand, these same persons seem to think that if some truth is distasteful to them that all that is necessary to reduce it to the ranks of error is for them to avow an unbelief of it. This is the basis for the "I believe" and "I don't believe" religions. Men assume that if they believe a thing, it becomes truth, and if they don't believe it, it is error. God's word is truth regardless or our attitude toward it. ---Lowell Blasingame in

BLYTHEVILLE NEWSLETTER

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting for word from the West Hobbs Street "elders" in Athens or from Albert Hill in Florence as to when we will have the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE that was agreed on more than two years ago.

If any of you readers have any information as to why the "elders" and Albert Hill won't go ahead and reschedule the debate, please let us know.

Sentence Sermons

There can be no enthronement of Christ until there has been a dethronement of sin.

Neutrality in religion is the same as surrender to the Devil.

Some people must get sick before their religion is strong enough to assert itself.

God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit the man, but the man to fit the robe.

When a Christian stops doing, he starts dying.

CHURCH OF CHRIST; Route 3, Highway 431 South Albertville, Alabama 35950