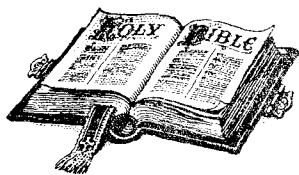


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## Are Works Necessary To The Salvation of Man?

Ephesians 2:8-9: "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." James 2:24: "Ye see then how that **by works** a man is justified, and not by faith only."

Without studying the context of the Scriptures, Ephesians 2:8-9 is a direct contradiction of James 2:24. In one place the Scriptures state that we are saved **by works**. In the other place the Bible states that we are saved **by grace through faith** and not by works. But we know the Bible was written by inspired men and that it never contradicts.

So we must realize that Ephesians 2:8-9 is correct; that we are "saved by grace through faith, **and not of works**." But what kind of works are under consideration here? I would like to point out that there is a great difference between the **commandments of God** which are the **works of righteousness**. We have two different kinds of works under consideration. We have the **works of God which are his commandments** and the works of man which are not the commandments of God. As Peter began to preach to the household of Cornelius in acts 10:34-35 he said: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that **feareth him, and worketh righteousness** is accepted with him." James is talking about the same works as the apostle Peter in

Acts 10, "the works of righteousness." Those who obey the commandments of God are working righteousness. The apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:8-9 is talking about the works of man and not the works of God. The works and righteousness of man alone and apart from God's commandments are as filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6). Man cannot reach heaven by his own works but through the **grace** of God. Through His grace we have the New Testament which reveals to us His will, that we might obey it and be saved.

In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said: "Not every one that sayeth unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Man is rewarded according to that which he does in this life. Revelation 20:12 says: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things written in the books. **according to their works.**"

In Romans 2:13 Paul said: "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified." Revelation 14:13 says: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, from hence forth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their **labors**: and their **works** do follow them." I want us to notice that the dead who are blessed are those **in the Lord** that have

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial* — — —

In addressing brethren, an inspired man said: "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and vanisheth away. **For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that.** But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:13-17).

Obviously, there were some brethren who boasted about making money or getting gain. Their plans were laid and were made known. However, God was left out of their plans. They said, "**we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain.**" They trusted in themselves and in their own ability to gain materially. A need for a dependence on God was not felt by them. It seems that they had an empty presumption that caused them to trust in the stability of material things. They presumed that there would be a tomorrow. They presumed that they would be **living** on the morrow. They presumed they would be able to "**buy and sell**" on the morrow. However, James said: "**For that ye ought to say. IF**

THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT." James wanted to impress upon "brethren" the uncertainty and brevity of life and to warn them against the evil of "rejoicing in your boastings" of boasting "in your arrogance" as suggested in the NASV. (cf. James 4:16).

As we reflect on James 4:13-17 there are several lessons we can learn that should profit us immensely. Let us consider some of those lessons.

### WE SHOULD NOT BOAST OF TOMORROW AND OF LIFE

Christians should never boast of the morrow. We do not know that there will be a tomorrow and if there is one, we do not know what tomorrow may bring forth. Solomon said: "Boast not thyself of tomorrow: for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Prov. 27:1). James said: "whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. **"We ought to say, "IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT."**

### THE UNCERTAINTY OF GAIN

One may boast of his plans to go somewhere and engage in a business enterprise and make profit. Such a one should not trust in the uncertainty of riches, but in the living God. Since we do not know what shall be on the morrow, we should never trust in uncertain riches. It is not certain that we will receive riches and even if we do, it is not certain that we will keep them. Many who obtain riches over a period of years become poverty stricken over night. We ought to say, "**IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT.**"

### THE BREVITY OF LIFE

It is unwise to presume that our days on earth will be many. Assuming that life on earth will be long may encourage procrastination or lead to inactivity in things of great importance. It may tend to cause one to forget that **it is in God that "we live, and move, and have our being."** (See Acts 17:28). The brevity of life is emphasized in the following statements: "**Man that is born of woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and**

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**YE OUGHT TO SAY, IF THE LORD WILL continueth not.**" (Job 14:1-2). "...our days upon earth are as a shadow." (Job 8:9). "**My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, . . .**" (Job 7:6). "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flowers thereof falleth away." (1 Peter 1:24). "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? **It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**" (James 4:14). In view of this, James says: "For ye ought to say, **IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT.**"

#### **OUR DEPENDENCE ON GOD FOR LIFE**

We should never forget that God is the creator of man and the giver of life. Neither should we overlook the fact that God is the sustainer of life. We are the offspring of God and it is in Him that we live, and move, and have our being. (cf. Acts 17:28). It is God, "who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." (1 Tim. 6:17). God is "the Father of spirits." In acknowledging God's omnipotence, Job said: "in whose hand is the soul (Or life—CRS) of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind." (Job 12:10). James tells us that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, . . ." (James 1:17). **We are dependent upon God for our life!**

In view of our dependence upon God for life **we ought to say, "IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT."**

#### **WE MUST PUT GOD IN OUR PLANS**

Many people, in their quest for gain, leave God out of their plans. They feel adequate within and of themselves. They assume that riches and material possessions will be theirs because of their own wisdom and strength. Elaborate plans may be formulated and meticulous details worked out without any consideration of **God's will** in the matter. Selfishness may be the motive of such endeavors, and covetousness may promote such activities.

In warning against covetousness, Jesus said: "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: **for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things that he possesseth.**" (Luke 12:15). He then spake a

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**YE OUGHT TO SAY, IF THE LORD WILL** parable about a certain rich man whose ground brought forth plentifully. The rich man thought within himself, saying, "what whall I do, because I have no room to bestow all my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee (your life will come to an end—CRS): them whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:16-21). The rich man failed because he left God out of his plans. We, too, will utterly fail if we leave God out of plans!

Jesus said: "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;** and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). It is a lack of faith and trust in God that prompts one to leave God out of his plans. **We ought to say, "IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT.**

Are **you** fully aware of the uncertainty of riches? Have **you** been impressed with the brevity of life? Are **you** constantly reminded of your dependence on God for life? Do **you** always put God in your plans? We trust and pray that **you** have been impressed with the fact that "**YE OUGHT TO SAY, IF THE LORD WILL, WE SHALL LIVE, AND DO THIS, OR THAT.**"

(CRS)

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#### **ARE WORKS NECESSARY TO THE SALVATION OF MAN?**

**labored whose works follow them.**

The Bible is perfect and completely furnishes us unto **all good works.** (2 Timothy 3:17).

Faith plus obedience to God's commandments equals salvation. Remember the Bible never contradicts, but the ideas of men do.

---Houston Gateley in  
TRUTH IN DARKNESS

# A Double-Minded Man

There are two mentions of this kind of man in the epistle of James (James 1:8; 4:8). In the first instance, James says that a "double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." In the second, the double-minded man is admonished to "purify your hearts, ye double-minded."

The double-minded man is one who is ever changing his mind, according to the passion which happens to govern or control him at the time. This individual is liable to be standing on one side of an issue today, and on the opposite side tomorrow. He is unstable, and is controlled by any one influence only for a moment. This kind of individual is not dependable. He may be with you on the truth today, but change his mind tomorrow and oppose you.

I believe James is saying (James 48:8) that this individual's problem is his heart. If he would get this purified by the faith (Acts 15:7-9), he would be alright. Thus his unstable ways are the result of an impure heart.

Have you ever wondered what was wrong with a person who continues to jump from one side of an issue to another? You've seen preachers who even like this. Does James tell us what is wrong?

---Leslie E. Sloan in

THE TREZEVAULT ST. TORCH  
AND TRUMPET

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting for a positive response from **Albert Hill** and the **West Hobbs Street "elders"** in Athens relative to the setting of a date for the **Hill-Sutton Debate** that was agreed on over two years ago. As soon as a date is set, we will pass the word along to the readers of **THE INSTRUCTOR**.

It seems to me that as a person has less conviction in spiritual matters, the more he seems to "run" from an open, candid discussion of his "beliefs and practices."

## A VOICE FROM THE PAST

**ADAM CLARKE SAID:** "I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them (instruments of music—CRS) productive of any good in the worship of God; and have had reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire; but instruments of music **in the house of God** I abominate and abhor. This is the abuse of music; and here I register my protest against all such corruptions in the worship of the Author of Christianity."

---Commentary on Amos 6:5

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# SENTENCE SERMONS

Sooner or later you must learn that God makes no deals.

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You can not strengthen a man's character by whitewashing it.

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The man who lives only for self is engaged in a very unprofitable business.

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It is worse to be false to the true God, than to be true to a false god. Of course, both are wrong!

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You have no strong conviction unless you stand for it.

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