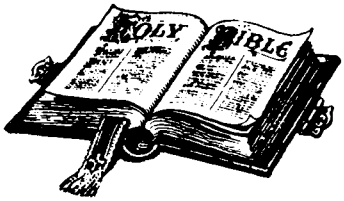
# THE INSTRUCTOR




*"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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## "IF SOMEBODY LOVES YOU, WON'T THEY ALWAYS LOVE YOU?"

I am occasionally amazed at the kernals of truth which exist in the words of modern songs — songs which are frequently void of truth and filled with expressions of materialism, humanism and hedonism. A line in a currently popular song asks, "If somebody loves you, won't they always love you?" Another song of a few years back asked the insightful question, "If love never lasts forever, tell me, what's forever for?" These questions are getting at the everlasting quality of true love.

I believe that love, at least the "agape" love of our New Testament, can best be defined as an unconditional desire for the well being of another. It has little to do with what is felt in the heart, but everything to do with what's decided in one's head. That is to say. We **choose** to love with our minds. The person we love may not be physically attractive, smart, pleasant to be around, or someone with whom we have anything in common, but when we choose to show an interest in their well being, we've chosen to love them. This kind of love is everlasting.

God has demonstrated to us the unconditional nature of everlasting love. He has been concerned about our well being since the beginning of time, and He continues to be concerned. Do we deserve this? Are we so "cute" or "good" or "righteous" that God had to love us? NO. But he chose to love us in spite of ourselves. "**God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that** WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, **Christ died for us.**" (Rom. 5:8). "**God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which he loved us,** EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES . . ." (Eph. 2:4-5b).

The love of God is not something that is here today, gone tomorrow. It is not something that depends upon how good or bad we are. It is there for us always. But just because He loves us unconditionally, does not mean there aren't any conditions to be met before we can receive the benefits of His love. A parent may love their child, and so provide it unconditionally with food, clothing, and affection. But the child who will not eat his food, put on his clothes, or hug his parents does not receive the benefits of his parents' love. So it is with God's love. We must take advantage of what He has provided for us. If we do this, we stand to bask in the warmth of His everlasting love forever. "**For I am persuaded that neither**

*(Continued on page 4)*

**THE INSTRUCTOR**

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# Editorial

## SOME THINGS WE SHOULD REMEMBER (No. 1)

In writing to those who had obtained like precious faith with Peter, he said: "**Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.**" (2 Peter 1:12). Paul told Timothy to put others "**in remembrance**" of certain things. (2 Tim. 2:14). To be "**a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine**" it was necessary that Timothy "**put the brethren in remembrance of these things.**" (1 Timothy 4:6).

Today preachers have the responsibility of putting others in remembrance of certain things. All of us need to be put in remembrance of certain things even though we may know them and be established in the present truth. Let us now begin a study of some things we need to remember.

I. **WE SHOULD REMEMBER THE CREATOR.** In Ecclesiastes 12:1 Solomon said: "**Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.**" The first statement in the Scriptures declares that "**In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.**" (Genesis 1:1). This creation took place on the **first day** because we learn from Exodus 20:11 that "... **In six days the Lord made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is,** ..." NOTE: This does **not** allow for the earth to have been created and thus in existence for millions or billions of years before God said: "**Let there be light: and there was light.**" Yes, **the earth was created on the first day!**

In declaring the true God to the Athenians the apostle Paul said: "**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.**" (Acts 17:24).

We learn from the Psalmist that "**By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.**" (Psalms 33:6-9).

From Jeremiah 10:12 we learn that God "... **hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.**"

It is clear from the preceding Scriptures that **God created the heavens and the earth!**

The inspired apostle John declared that "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God.**" (John 1:1-2). We are informed in John 1:14 that "... **the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us,** ..." This (and other information) identifies **the Word** as **the Son!** Verse 3 of John 1 says: "**All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.**" Referring to **the Son**, Paul said: "**For by him were all**

*(Continued on page 3)*

# Some Things We Should Remember

*(Continued from page 2)*

**things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**" (Colossians 1:16-17). NOTE: From these Scriptures we see that **the Son** created "**all** things" which would certainly include the heavens and the earth! FURTHER NOTE: Since **and the Son** created the heavens and the earth we must conclude that **God (the Father) created the heavens and the earth** THROUGH **or** BY **the Son!**

God not **only** created the heavens and the earth but he **also** created man. In Genesis 1:26-27 we read: "**And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: . . .**" **So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.**" Genesis 5:1-2 says: "... **In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.**"

We learn from Acts 17:24-29 that **God** "**. . . giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, ... For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.**" NOTE: It is evident from the Scriptures that GOD CREATED MAN!

Not **only** did God create the heavens and the earth and man but he **also** created "**all things.**"

When we take all the information that we have in the Scriptures on the subject we must conclude that GOD "**... created all things by Jesus Christ.**" (Ephesians 3:9).

The apostle Paul informs us that "**... the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**" (Romans 1:20). GOD'S ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN FROM THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE!

A long time ago Isaiah said: "**Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding.**" (Isaiah 40:28).

Let each of us REMEMBER NOW OUR CREATOR. Let us remember Him AS our Creator and let us put others in remembrance of Him.

(CRS)

*(To be continued)*

**THE BIBLE — A BOOK FROM GOD**

The Bible is here; if God did not write it, who did? Man could not have done it, and he would not if he could. It is a Book that reveals man's defects and pronounces condemnation upon his head. All the combined wisdom of all the combined ages could never have written this Book. We are certain that the devil did not write it, for it is opposed to his kingdom, and to follow its teachings will mean the destruction of the devil and his kingdom. It is antagonistic to all that is devilish. It is a Book that came from God. Men of God spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit.

**— W. H. Book**

# "If Somebody Loves You . . ."

*(Continued from page 1)*

**death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**" (Rom. 8:38ff).

In 1 Thess. 4:9 the apostle Paul wrote, "**But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another.**" There is then a vital lesson we need to learn from God about love. The way God loves us is the way we ought to love each other — always seeking one another's well being, no matter what. We cannot stop loving one another because one of us have stumbled in sin, or because we had a disagreement, or whatever. These are the times we should be especially concerned about one another's well being. "**Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**" (1 John 4:11). Yes, if somebody loves you, they will always love you.

— Steve Klein
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## — *SENTENCE SERMONS* —

Happy is the man who renounces anything that places a strain upon his conscience.

* * * * *

The other fellow's sins, like your headlights, are always more glaring than your own.

* * * * *

The proper use of life is to spend it for something good that will outlast it.

* * * * *

Multitudes are making a good living, but not good lives.

* * * * *

A smile is a curve that can help set things straight.

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