

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)

Volume 47

JANUARY, 2010

Number 1

"I AM RESOLVED!"

Jonathan Sutton

"I am resolved no longer to linger, charmed by the world's delight.." You may recognize the title of this article as the title of a familiar and beloved hymn. It is typically sung as a song of invitation – inviting listeners to respond to the Gospel call. However, the exhortation to be resolved or determined to urgently hear and obey God's will is a path all Christians should choose to follow. Let's consider some things about which we should be resolved or determined.

I am resolved to totally commit my life to God. During his ministry, Jesus emphasized this point in his teaching. He told his disciples to "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness..." in Mt. 6:33. This demands that nothing ever come before our service to Him. In Lk. 9:61-62 we read of one who said he would follow the Lord, but wanted to first return home to say his farewells. Jesus said to him "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Once we have made the decision to be a servant of God, we can't let anything get in the way. We must put self aside to be pleasing to him. In Mk. 8:34, Jesus

said "Whoever desires to come after me, let him deny himself..." Not even love for our families should come between us and our God. Jesus said that one who loves father or mother or son or daughter more than him is not worthy of him (Mt. 10:37-38).

I am resolved to let the word of God guide how I live. Prov. 3:5-6 tells says "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." The psalmist eloquently expressed his resolve to lean on the word of God for guidance in Ps.119:104-106 saying "Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments." We should recognize that God's word is sufficient to guide our ways. Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim. 3:16-17 that the scriptures are inspired of God and they completely equip us for every good work. There is no need to search for any guidance based on the wisdom of men or writings of philosophy. (P 4).

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 422)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Mike Pack

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Gary Chumley

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

PREACHING JESUS & HIM CRUCIFIED (1)

There are many theories as to what and how preachers should preach. There are some who think that preachers should always preach positive sermons. They seem to think that negative preaching has no place in the "modern pulpit." They think that certain "Bible subjects" should never be preached or even studied in a "Bible class" with several students.

A number of people are of the opinion that "doctrinal" subjects (whatever they are) should not be preached. People with this attitude usually say, "Preachers should never 'call names' when preaching and should not specifically condemn any person, doctrine or church.

In these studies we will consider the kind of preaching that

Paul did (and other inspired men, as well as Jesus Christ), how he preached and what he preached. From these studies we should learn the *kind of preaching* that should be done and *how* and *what* should be preached.

In Acts 18 we learn that Paul went to Corinth "And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks" (Vs. 1, 4). We learn from verse 5 that he "testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ." Verse 8 says "and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." We learn from verse 11 that Paul "...continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them."

Later Paul wrote two letters to the saints at Corinth. In 1 Cor. 2:1-5 he declared:

"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified.

And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

NOTE: From the above passage we learn several facts. Among them are:

1. Paul did not declare the testimony of God "with excellency of speech or of wisdom". His

speaking was not superior rhetoric. He did not emphasize or use eloquence in preaching Christ to them. Neither his message nor his method of teaching was what many teachers (or preachers) would deem essential or at least beneficial to "leading people to Christ." It was not used by the inspired apostle!

2. Paul's speech and preaching was not "with enticing words of man's wisdom," but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power that their faith "should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." NOTE: Our teaching and preaching should not be "with enticing words of man's wisdom!"

NOTE: See 2 Cor. 11:6 where Paul says: "But though I be rude in speech, yet not in knowledge..." Paul did not claim to be a skilled orator, but he claimed to have the knowledge of what should be taught. Often there is too much emphasis placed on "oratorical abilities" and not enough on the truth that should be preached!

3. Paul was with the Corinthians "in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling." NOTE: Preaching the word of God is a grave responsibility. We should never take it lightly! When we consider the gravity of our responsibility we should realize our weakness and should fear and tremble!

4. The apostle Paul said: "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." NOTE: In declaring "the testimony of God" to the Corinthians and in

"teaching the word of God among them" Paul was preaching "Jesus Christ, and him crucified."

FURTHER NOTE: We must conclude that when Paul declared the testimony of God and taught the word of God, not only to the Corinthians, but to others in the first century, he was preaching Jesus Christ and him crucified!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PREACH JESUS CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED?

The following are some of the things that are involved in preaching Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

1. It means condemning division and preaching and pleading for unity of God's children. In 1 Cor. 1:10-15 Paul said: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which is of the house of Chloe, there that are contentions among you.

Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name."

NOTE: Calling themselves after different men was divisive and thus sinful!

In 1 Cor. 3:3-6 Paul said: **"For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."**

NOTE: Divisions are evidences of carnality which is sin!

ALSO NOTE: In preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified we must preach **"that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment."** (v. 10). In Rom. 16:17-18 Paul told the saints at Rome to **"...Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned;**

and avoid them..."

The Psalmist declared in Psalms 133:1: **"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."**

The apostle Paul exhorted Christians saying: **"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"** (Eph. 4:3).

Yes, in preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified, it is absolutely essential that we condemn divisions and plead for unity! However, this should never be done at the expense of truth and righteousness!

(To be continued)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at Oak Grove, Jennings, FL - March 7-12, 2010- C.R. Sutton preaching

(Continued from page 1)

"I AM RESOLVED"

God has revealed through inspired men all that we need to know to live happily upon this earth as faithful servants of His. (To be continued)

SENTENCE SERMONS

True discipleship must be before self, before kinship, hardship and ownership of -material things!

* * * * *

Do not ever finish something that you should not have ever started.

* * * * *

Christians should be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and strong.

* * * * *

Many have multiplied their possessions, but have reduced their values; especially their spiritual values!

* * * * *

These are days of two incomes, fancier houses, two cars, but more divorce & broken marriages.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Periodical Postage