

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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WHO SAID "WATER SALVATION?"

Nowhere in the Bible is it found that God blesses a man through faith before that faith expressed itself in action. "Faith without works is dead, being alone." (James 2:17).

Paul said that the thing which availed in Christ Jesus is "faith working through love."

Not until Naaman dipped seven times in the Jordan was he healed of his leprosy. (2 Kings 5:8-14). And let some of these ranting religionists of today please note that though Captain Naaman had to dip seven times in the water, still this was not that "water salvation" they seem to fear so greatly. It was salvation from leprosy by the power of God, but it was received only AFTER the man had dipped in the water seven times.

The Israelites bitten by the serpents looked at the brazen serpent and were healed. This was the law of God. Some preacher friend of ours with more brass than belief would have ridded the camp of the brazen serpent for fear the people would come up with "snake salvation." But it was salvation by the power of God and was received only AFTER they had looked on the serpent of brass. (Num. 21:7-9).

The man born blind had to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam in order to see, but let it be noticed that this is not "water eyesight," but it was eyesight provided by the power of Jesus. (John 9:6-7).

Jesus says now, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." (Mark 16:16). Peter likewise said, Repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38).

The wise person will do these things, as the blind man went and washed and then came seeing. And God forgives and saves in this obedience, just as He opened the blind eyes, and a blind man ought to see that.

But a lot of people who profess to know the what and wherefore of the Scripture glibly tells us that we are saved by "faith only", or solely through faith," and that baptism has nothing to do with salvation. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." Closing their eyes against the light, they have added the sin of rejecting Christ to all their other sins.

—Gayle Oler in
JUST A MOMENT, 1950

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EDITORIAL....

IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (No. 15)

In our past studies, we answered the major arguments advanced by R. W. Gray, editor of the North Broad Bulletin that is under review. Although editor Gray desperately tried to "cloud" the issue, it should be evident to studious Christians that **Scriptural AUTHORITY** for church supported institutions such as CHILDHAVEN, Inc. was **not presented**. Let us now consider a number of miscellaneous statements and arguments used by the editor in an effort to sustain his **theory** that churches may Scripturally contribute to **human societies**.

A MEDLEY OF ARGUMENTS & ANSWERS

I. R. W. Gray said: "In helping a home the church is doing her work."

(N.B. Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 24.)

ANSWER:

1. The editor **assumes** that the church is to help a home (which he says is another institution). He does **not prove it**. He is quick to **assume and assert** but slow to **prove** his assertions.

2. If by "helping a home," he means "relieving" needy saints, he could have given such passages as 1 Tim. 5:16; Acts 6:1-6; 11:27-30 and 1 Cor. 16:1-3.

3. The fact that the church is authorized to relieve needy saints does

NOT prove at all that the church is authorized to contribute to a **benevolent society** such as CHILDHAVEN, Inc. that it in turn may relieve the needy.

II. Editor Gray stated that "the fact of incorporation of an orphan home does not change the things herein discussed. Churches may and often do incorporate, but this does not make the corporation another institution."

(N.B. Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 25).

ANSWER:

1. The truth is that '**an orphan home**' i.e., a place where facilities, necessities and personnel are provided and children are "cared for" is **NOT incorporated**. A **human institution** which consists of several MEN which in turn provide 'an orphan home' is **incorporated**. CHILDHAVEN, Inc. is a **benevolent SOCIETY** which has provided and oversees 'an orphan home.' The 'orphan home' that CHILDHAVEN, Inc. first provided was purchased from the grand lodge of the I.O.O.F. (a **human society**).

2. We do not object to the fact of incorporation, but we do object to the human society or organization whether it incorporates or not. The **society** known as CHILDHAVEN, Inc. is **NOT** a church. It is **NOT** a home for the needy. It is a **human organization** (whether it incorporates or not) to which we object. It is **between** the **church** and the **home** that is provided.

3. Whether a church incorporates or not, it is still the church, and whether a **human organization** called CHILDHAVEN incorporates or not, it is still a **human institution!**

III. The editor argued that "a church may elect to aid folks in a home without violating a single Bible principle. (1 Tim. 5:16)." (Vol. 3, No. 16).

ANSWER:

1. If by "aid folks in a home," the editor means to "**relieve them that are widows indeed**" as 1 Tim. 5:16 teaches, then, of course, we all will say "Amen." If, however, by "aid folks in a home" he means "send a contribution to a benevolent society" such as "**HOME FOR THE AGED**" (a **benevolent corpor-**

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ation in Gunter, Texas that provides a home for aged men and women), he is guilty of **perverting** 1 Tim. 5:16.

2. There is a vast difference between the church "relieving widows" by providing a place, necessities and personnel and the church **contributing to a human benevolent society** that it in turn might "relieve widows."

3. In 1 Tim. 5:16 Paul **specifies** the CHURCH as the organization that is to "relieve them that are widows indeed." The CHURCH in this passage is just as **specific** with respect to **organization** as SING is in Eph. 5:19 with respect to **music**. In both cases other **co-ordinates** are eliminated!

IV. Editor Gray said: "The church is a preaching society—as such. It is not a home—as such." (GRAY-JAMERSON EXCHANGE, Gray's Second Reply, P. 8)

ANSWER:

1. This is mere subterfuge. The editor should see the fallacy of his reasoning (?).

2. No one claims the church is a home as such. Neither is the church a meeting house or a tent! But that is NOT THE ISSUE! The issue is: Is the church a "relieving society?" Will editor Gray affirm that the church is NOT a relieving society? Will he?

3. Editor Gray believes the church is a "preaching society" because the New Testament (in 1 Tim. 3:15 & other passages) shows the church is to **preach**. The church is NOT a meeting house, a tent or facilities, but it CAN provide them if such are needed in preaching. On the same basis, why isn't the church a "relieving society" since the N.T. (in 1 Tim. 5:16 & other passages) shows the church is to **relieve**? It is NOT a **home**, or **facilities**, but it can provide such if such are needed. Simple, isn't it? **It is simply a matter of believing what God's Word says.**

V. The editor asserted that "since before the turn of the century churches of Christ in America have supported Or-

phan Homes." (N.B. Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 22).

ANSWER:

1. By "Orphan Homes" the editor means **benevolent organizations** such as CHILDAHVEN, Inc. He asserted it but he gave NO PROOF whatsoever!

2. What was the editor's motive for making this assertion? What does this have to do with the issues at hand?

3. Even if his assertion is so, this would not prove that such a practice is SPIRITUAL.

4. However, I deny that any true church of Christ in America contributed to **benevolent societies** such as CHILDAHVEN before the turn of the century, and I **challenge** the editor to produce the proof of his allegation!

We are still waiting for either the editor or the North Broad Church to muster up enough courage to defend their practice and teaching in public debate. Will they do it?

(CRS)

A CORRECTION

EDITOR'S NOTE: Some typographical errors appeared in **The Instructor**, Vol. 8, No. 6. The following statements should have appeared on page 3 under "Some Questions For The Editor":

"3. Does the editor believe there is a pattern in the organization of the church? If so, what is it? Is it not true that all that God teaches about the organization of the church constitutes the pattern?"

4. Does the editor believe there is a pattern in evangelism? If so, what is it? Is it not true that all that God's Word teaches about evangelism makes up the pattern?"

2 TIMOTHY 2:15: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

IT DOESN'T SAY NOT!

It is interesting to see what people will sometimes do as they seek to evade the plain teaching of simple Scripture!

A young man is reported to have been hesitating about being baptized. "I really can't see why I have to be baptized to be saved," he said. "He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved," stated the preacher, quoting Mark 16:16.

"Yes, I know," responded the young man, "but it doesn't say you can't be saved without, does it?"

The preacher then pointed to an advertisement across the street. "Say," he said, "I see that there is going to be a circus in town tonight. Are you going?"

"Oh, no," replied the young man. "That admission price of two dollars is too steep for me. I don't have the money."

"Oh, yes," replied the preacher. "I know it says 'Admission \$2.00,' but it doesn't say you cannot get in without it!"

Over and over people try to excuse themselves by that kind of argument. They will say that the Bible does **not** say you can't use a musical instrument in worship; that it does **not** say not to sprinkle for baptism; that it does **not** say "Thou shalt **not** dance, play cards, drink, etc."; that it does **not** say not to smoke, and so on and on. When will people learn that when God gives a positive command, it excludes negative actions? Each one

should be obedient to the Lord and forget about the things he **didn't** tell us **not** to do!

—Selected & Appeared
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A Voice From The Past

"When any good work is suggested, any need recognized, the first thought of almost all men, naturally and humanly, is — organize! They usually do organize; but instead of that solving the problem, it creates another one. Organization itself is a disease that is incurable. Taxes are never reduced. Organizations never get their job done. The lure of easy money is too great in both instances to those who are operating the machinery. The upshot of building machinery is that we spend the rest of our natural lives lubricating. That is all that is expected of you as a member of the church. You are not expected to think. You are not expected to have a mind of your own. You should not ask any questions about why these things are being done. Your part is to lubricate the machinery ...' —W. E. Brightwell in The GOSPEL ADVOCATE in 1933.

Sentence Sermons

A person is old when he has outlived enthusiasm.

If you want to commit suicide on the installment plan, smoke or worry, or do both!

To truly live, one must eat daily of the bread of life.

Prejudice is being down on what you are not up on.

God's Way is not popular, but it is always right, and best!

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