

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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"IS ONE AS GOOD AS THE OTHER?"

If you are calling a doctor, is one as good as the other? If you are seeking a wife, is one as good as the other? If you are buying a prescription, is one as good as the other? If you are catching a bus, is one as good as the other? If you are buying a house, is one as good as the other? If you are needing a mechanic, is one as good as the other? Then, kind reader, why be so particular in material things and so careless and "broadminded" in matters pertaining to your eternal destiny? How often do we hear, "One faith, way, worship, religion, baptism, church, name or doctrine is as good as another."

FAITH

Is one faith as good as another faith? If so, then why did the apostle teach, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." (Eph. 4:5). Also, a dead faith would be as good as an active one. The Bible speaks of both kinds. (James 2:26).

WAY

Is one way as good as another way? If so, why did Jesus say, "I am the way . . ." (John 14:6). Furthermore, Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Is this way as good as the strait and narrow way that leadeth to life everlasting? (Matthew 7:13-14).

WORSHIP

Is one worship as good as another

worship? If so, then why did God reject Cain's worship and accept Abel's? (Gen. 4). Again, why did he kill Nadab and Abihu in the act of worshipping, if one worship is as good as another? (Lev. 10). And, if one worship is as good as another one, then an ignorant worship (Acts 17:23), a vain worship (Matthew 15:9), and a will worship (Col. 2:23), would be as good as true worship. (John 4:24).

RELIGION

Is one religion as good as another? If so, why does the book of Acts record thousands of cases of conversions of a religious individual! Why make the change if one religion is as good as another? The Bible discusses pure religion, the only kind to have, in James 1:27.

BAPTISM

If one baptism is as good as another, then why were those who had been baptized with John's baptism rebaptized in Acts 19? For our baptism to be valid it must be based on a genuine faith (Mark 16:16), preceded by a repentance from sin (Acts 2:38), and administered upon a proper confession. (Acts 8:36-38).

CHURCH

Is one church as good as another? If so, then those built and established by man (Matthew 15:13; Psa. 127:1) would be as good as the one established by the Lord. (Matthew 16:18). Yet, Matthew 15:

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Editorial

What Is Your Life? **(No. 4)**

We have studied in the past three issues of this paper the question: "WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?" We have shown the ORIGIN of life and the PURPOSE of life on earth. Man originated with God. God is, indeed, the Creator. We are His "offspring." He is "the Father of spirits." Man has been placed on earth for the purpose of **glorifying God and preparing** for eternity. Now, let us consider the question of LIFE from another viewpoint.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE WITH REFERENCE TO ITS LENGTH ON EARTH?

Death has been appointed unto men by the God of heaven and earth. It is unavoidable. It is certain. Hebrews 9:27 says ". . . it is appointed unto men once to die . . ." In speaking of man's life on earth Job 14:1-2 says: "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 continueth not." Job also said: "**My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, . . .**" (Job 7:6).

Concerning the Israelites, the Psalmist said: "For he (God—CRS) remembered that they were but flesh: **a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.**"

(Psa. 78:39. In speaking to God, the Psalmist said: "**Behold thou hast made my days as a handbreath . . .**" (Psa. 39:5), and "**Remember how short my time is.**" (Psa. 89:47). He also said: "**For my days are consumed like smoke . . .**" (Psa. 102:3). In speaking of man's life span on earth, he also said: "The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; **for it is soon cut off, and we fly away . . .** So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Ssee Psa. 90:10-12).

The apostle Peter said: "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away." (1 Peter 1:23).

To impress us with the brevity of life and the fact that we should include God in our plans, James said: "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow 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 vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this or that.**" (James 4:13-15).

Dear reader, **what is your life with reference to its length on earth?** How long are you going to live? Are you going to live to "a ripe old age?" You are going to die! When? Remember, you are not promised another day to live. "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (Proverbs 27:1). You do not know when death will come. At the longest, **your life on earth will be short!** Life on earth is uncertain. The thread of life may be broken at any time. Even if you live to "a ripe old age," will it profit you spiritually? Will you be prepared to meet God in judgment when this life on earth is over? Do you truly have **hope** (desire with expectation because you have obeyed God's will) of eternal salvation? If not, you will have lived on earth in vain.

It matters not so much as to how long you live on earth, but your eternal destiny is determined by **how you live!**

(To be continued)

(CRS)

JESUS ON MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

Matthew 5:32: “. . . whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

Matthew 19:9: “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and who so marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.”

Mark 10:11-12 “Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.”

Luke 16:18: “Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery.”

THE DIVORCER: “. . . whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another committeth adultery . . . And if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another she committeth adultery.” (Mark 10:11-12).

THE DIVORCED: “. . . whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her . . .” (Matthew 5:32).

THIRD PARTY: “. . . and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery,” (Matthew 5:32), “. . . and who so marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” (Matthew 19:9).

ONE EXCEPTION: “. . . whosoever shall put away . . . save for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery . . .” (Matthew 5:32). “Whosoever shall put away his wife except it be for fornication, and shall marry . . . committeth adultery.” (Matthew 19:9).

SUMMARY: “Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication . . .

1. and shall marry another, committeth adultery . . .” (Matthew 19:9).
2. causeth her to commit adultery: and
3. whosoever shall marry her . . . committeth adultery.” (Matthew 5:32).

—Compiled by **Jere E. Frost**

Come On, Don't Growl and Grumble

Sez I to myself, as I grumbled and growled,

I'm sick of the church, and then how I scowled;

The members aren't friendly—the sermon's too long,

In fact, I think the preacher's all wrong

I don't like the singing; it's all a disgrace;

And signs of neglect are all over the place.

I'll quit going there; I won't give a dime;

Then sez my conscience, “Alas!” sez he,

“The trouble with you is you're too blind to see

That the church reflects you, whatever it be,

Come now, quit talking and serve cheerfully.

Stop all your fault-finding and boost it strong.

So pray for your brethren and sing as you work;

“For churches aren't built by members who shirk!”

—Lifeline, 9-3-50

HE WORE NO CLOTHES

Have you ever wondered why some people dress (undress) as they do in shorts, tight shorts, shorty shorts, etc., and do so in the most public place possible? We have a good answer in Luke the eighth chapter. In verse 27 we read of “a certain man, which had devils long time, and wore no clothes.” Jesus “commanded the unclean spirit (the devils) to come out of the man,” (v. 29), and then (after the devils were gone) the man was “clothed, and in his right mind.” (v. 35). The conclusions are obvious. (1) He was not of the right mind when naked. Neither does the half-naked person follow the mind (word) of God. (2) While naked he was possessed with devils. How about you? Be Christ-like. Adorn your body in “modest apparel.” (1 Timothy 2:9).

—From TRUTH IN LOVE

(Continued from page 1)

"IS ONE AS GOOD AS THE OTHER?"

13 tells us that every plant the Father hath not planted shall be rooted up!

NAME

Is one name as good as another name? If so, why did the Lord change some names, as in the cases of Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Jacob to Israel, etc.? Also, why did the Lord teach in Acts 4:12 that there was salvation in no other name than in Jesus' name?

DOCTRINE

If one doctrine is as good as another, why would John have written, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God." (2 John 9).

SURELY WE CAN CLEARLY SEE THAT ONE IS NOT AS GOOD AS ANOTHER.

—Wendell Winkler

SOLOMON SAID: "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." (Prov. 29:11).

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

The Eastside Church in Athens, Alabama and I have waited a year for Albert Hill and the West Hobbs Street Church in Athens to set the date for the **Hill-Sutton Debate**. It has been a year since they promised to re-schedule the debate, that was temporarily postponed (**not cancelled**), in a short time. The debate was postponed due to an injury Carrol Sutton received in an auto accident on April 23, 1974.

Albert Hill had signed to DENY that "It is not Scriptural for churches of Christ to offer contests, picnics, parties and free gifts to all bus riders as incentives to encourage attendance at services." I signed to AFFIRM that proposition. Please analyze the proposition. Could it be that Albert Hill and the Hobbs St. brethren have decided they cannot successfully DENY the above proposition? Could that be the reason for their continued **silence** relative to setting a date? (CRS,

Sentence Sermons

He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever.

Most knocking is done by people who do not know how to ring the bell.

God brings people in deep water, not to drown them, but to cleanse them.

Keep both feet on the ground and you won't have far to fall.

There may be a wrong way to do the right thing, but there is never a right way to do the wrong thing.

No one knows of your honesty and sincerity unless you give out some samples.

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