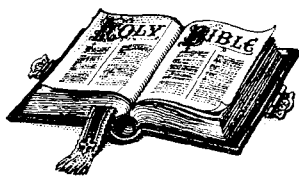


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 16

APRIL, 1979

Number 4

"WHEN FOR THE TIME YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS"

Teaching has always held a place of great importance in the plan of God for mankind. Even in the garden of Eden, God spoke unto man and taught him his duty with respect to eating of the trees of the garden. (Gen. 2:8-17). The law was given through Moses because of transgression. (Gal. 3:19). Teaching was essential under the law. In Deut. 4:1-14 we learn that God through Moses taught the Israelites statutes and judgments. They were told to remember what they had seen and heard to **"teach their children."**

During the personal ministry of Christ upon the earth, he sent twelve disciples forth and told them to **"preach."** (Matt. 10:1-5). Later he sent seventy out that they might make known his message. (Luke 10:1-2). Christ did much teaching while upon earth. His teaching was such that **"the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes."** (Matt. 7:28-29). In John 7:45-46 the chief priests and Pharisees asked the officers why they had not brought Jesus? Their reply was, **"Never man spake like this man."**

After Jesus died, was buried, and arose from the dead, he appeared to the eleven disciples and commissioned them, saying, **"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,**

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19-20). The teaching required under this commission was to be done to two classes of people. First, to those who were aliens, and secondly, to those who were God's children.

Beginning in Acts 2, we have the commission that Christ gave being carried out. There were about 3,000 Jews that were taught that obeyed the gospel. Acts 4:4 says, **"Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand."** In Acts 5:14 we learn that **"believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women."** By this time, members of the church numbered upward of eight thousand. Within the life time of the apostle Paul, the gospel had been preached to very creature. (See Col. 1:6, 23; Rom. 10:18). This was accomplished because Christians had a mind to work. They were very zealous in instructing others in the way of God. They were joyful because of the blessings provided by the gospel. They wanted to

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, Ala. 35950

Editorial . . .

WHY BE A CHRISTIAN?

The word "CHRISTIAN" is not found in the Old Testament and only three times in the New Testament. God's people were called "SAINTS" but never "CHRISTIANS" during the Old Testament period. In fact "the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26). Agrippa said to Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28). The apostle Peter said: "Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Peter 4:16). If you are not a Christian, you ought to be. There are several important reasons why you should be one. Let us consider some of the reasons why you should be a Christian.

1. YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN IN ORDER TO BE SAVED. You need to be saved. You can not be saved, though, without being a Christian. If you could be saved without being a Christian, Jesus died on the cross in vain. He shed his blood for the remission of sins. You are lost in your sins. To become a Christian means that you will be saved from the love, practice and guilt of sin. In Acts 3:19 Peter said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, . . ." and in Acts 2:38 he said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift

of the Holy Ghost." Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

If you are a true Christian you can be saved from the fear of death. You will be able to face death with courage and hope. (Matthew 10:28 & 1 John 4:18). The Bible teaches that the wicked will be lost in hell, but the obedient will be saved from hell. (See Matt. 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:9; Matt. 25:31-46).

You should be a Christian in order to be saved from sin, from the fear of death and from hell.

2. YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN IN ORDER TO ENJOY ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS. God has blessed us (Christians) with all spiritual blessings in Christ. (See Eph. 1:3). One must have sufficient faith to repent and be baptized in order to get into Christ, (see Acts 2:38 & Gal. 3:26-27), and the obedience that puts one into Christ makes one a Christian. If one is not a Christian, he does not have access to the spiritual blessings provided by the grace of God in Christ because "all spiritual blessings" are in Christ.

You should be a Christian in order to enjoy the spiritual blessings that are in Christ.

3. YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN IN ORDER TO ENJOY GENUINE HAPPINESS. Sin has its wages. Sin leaves its sting and stain. Sinful pleasures are deceitful and do not satisfy the longings and cravings of the soul of man. Sinful pleasures last only for a moment and are transitory. No one can be genuinely happy without hope of eternal salvation in heaven. The brute beast may gratify fleshly lusts but surely it is not genuinely happy. It has no hope beyond death. Temporal pleasures do not bring lasting joy nor true happiness. No one can have lasting joy, true happiness nor hope of heaven unless he is a Christian. Hear and consider Solomon's conclusion: "Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:13-14). Godliness profits in this life and in the life which is to come. (See 1 Tim. 4:6-8). YES, YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN!

4. YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN IN ORDER TO GO TO HEAVEN. Only those who are Truly Christians will be saved eternally in heaven. Yes, there are many good reasons for you to be a christian!

(CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

"WHEN FOR THE TIME YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS"

share their knowledge of Christ with others.

Today there are millions of people who have never heard the gospel of Christ. Now the gospel of Christ **"is the power of God unto salvation."** (Rom. 1:16). Peter asked, **"what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"** (1 Pet. 4:17). The apostle Paul teaches in 2 Thess. 1:9 that they **"shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power."** We can see from this inspired teaching that precious souls will be punished forever if they do not obey the gospel. But how shall they obey the gospel if they are not taught, and how shall they be taught without a teacher? Brethren, we can not truthfully say that we are pure from the blood of all men until we have done our part in **"teaching all nations."**

Now let us consider our responsibility to teach those who are God's children. Jesus said, **"teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."** Jesus promised to be with the disciples only if they taught those who were God's children how to live, worship and work. Many people seem to think that primary obedience to the gospel is all that is necessary in order for one to go to heaven. But, generally speaking, that is not the case! A child of God must walk according to God's rule. (Phil. 3:16). We will err unless we know the Scriptures. (Matt. 22:29). God said in Hosea 4:6, **"my people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge."** Therefore every child of God ought to **"grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."** (2 Pet. 3:18). We should add knowledge to our faith. (2 Pet. 1:5). This can be accomplished by an honest and diligent study of the Word of God.

Many of God's children will be lost because of ignorance. Brethren often say, **"let us preach the gospel and forget about the various issues that arise within the church."** An attitude that prompts a brother to make such a statement will cause him to be lost, if he doesn't repent. We will be lost unless we **"contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** Error in the church is just as damnable, if not more so,

than error out of the church! We must condemn error regardless of where it is found. We must maintain the simplicity and purity of the gospel of Christ! How can we consistently point out and condemn error in denominationalism and at the same time **"bury our heads in the sand"** to error propagated by those in the church? In order to be pure from the blood of all men, we must not shun to declare the whole counsel of God. (See Acts 20:26-27 & Ezek. 3:17-21). We are responsible to teach those in the church in order to edify them. In 1 Thess. 5:11 we learn that we are to **"exhort one another, and build each other up."** (ASV). Paul showed in Acts 20:32 that God and the **"word of his grace"** is able to build us up and give us an inheritance among all those that are sanctified. Thus we can and should build each other up by exhorting one another and teaching each other the word of God's grace.

The Hebrew writer said, **"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."** (Heb. 5:12). The principle here ought to impress every child of God with the fact that when for reason of time WE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS! Today there are thousands of people in the church that **"ought to be teachers"**, yet they have need to be instructed in the **"first principles of the oracles of God."** They are still babes and thus have need of milk and not of strong meat. They have not by reason of use exercised their senses that they might discern both good and evil. They have not developed spiritually as they should and hence are not qualified to be teachers!

Brethren, what are we doing with respect to teaching others? Are we qualified to be teachers? Or, are we still babes and thus have need of milk ourselves? When we stand before Christ in judgment, will he be able to say unto us, **"well done"**, if we haven't done anything toward teaching both those out of and those in the church the wisdom of God? Will some of those with whom we associate daily be able to point an accusing finger at us and say, **"You never mentioned God's Word to me. You helped me not the light to see. You met me day by day and knew I was astray. But you never mentioned God's Word to me?"**

Let us all realize the greatness of the

(Continued in right column)

(Continued on page 4)

CIVIL AUTHORITIES

We need to be reminded of our responsibilities lest we forget them. One such responsibility that Christians have and sometimes forget is that of honouring and praying for civil rulers.

In Romans 13:7 Paul says to **“render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”** In 1 Peter 2:17 Peter clearly tells us to **“honour all men. . . Honour the king.”** Christians should not show disrespect for those in civil authority by railing them or by ridiculing them. Although we may not approve of some or even many of their actions, we have the responsibility to show proper respect for them. Let us be very cautious lest we be guilty of failing to **“honour the king.”**

In writing to Timothy, Paul said: **“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”** (1 Tim. 2:1-2). We can clearly see from the above statement that Christians have the responsibility of praying for **“kings and for all that are in authority.”** Yes, we should remember to pray for civil rulers!

(CRS)

(Continued from page 3)

“WHEN FOR THE TIME YE OUGHT TO BE TEACHERS”

responsibility that rests upon us as God’s children to teach both aliens and those who are brothers and sisters in Christ. Since there are millions of people who are engulfed in religious error, chained by the shackles of men, groping about in darkness, who will finally be cast into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, unless they obey God’s Word, do you not think that **“for the time ye ought to be teachers?”**

If we desire to save ourselves and those that hear us, we should study God’s Word daily, meditate upon it prayerfully, and ask God for wisdom.

(CRS)

The above article was originally written and published about twenty years ago. (Editor’s note)

THE SUTTON-HILL DEBATE has not been re-scheduled yet. For some reason it seems that the “elders” of the West Hobbs Street Church can not seem to “face up” to their responsibility in this matter. Neither has Albert Hill shown any “courage” in the situation. Could someone help them? Please!

Sentence Sermons

Some people live without working, some work without living while others work and live.

God’s people are not without trial — nor without God in times of trial.

Your life will have been misspent if you get to the end of the road without Christ.

Repentance begins in the humiliation of the heart and ends in the reformation life.

Money talks. The way you get your money tells much about you, and the way you spend it tells even more.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, AL 35950