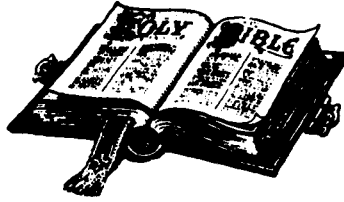


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 31

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Number 4

HOW IS FAITH PRODUCED?

Faith cannot be inherited! Neither can it be bought, borrowed or stolen! There is **NO evidence** that the Holy Spirit miraculously operates upon the heart of man and instills faith within it! **How, then, is faith produced in the human heart?** This question cannot be answered by opinion, feelings, traditions or human wisdom. The **inspired Word of God** as revealed in the Scriptures is able to enlighten us along this line! Consider carefully the following facts.

1. **FAITH IS PRODUCED BY THE WORD BEING SOWN IN THE HEART!** In explaining the parable of the sower, seed and soil, Jesus said: **"Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."** NOTE: This is why efforts are made by those influenced by the devil to remove the truth about how to be saved from the hearts of those who hear. They may claim their motive is to keep a person

from being led astray.

II. **FAITH IS PRODUCED BY THE WRITTEN WORD BEING LISTENED TO (i.e. BEING HEARD)!** John 20:30-31 ways: **"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name."** NOTE: To believe, we must listen to what is written!

III. **FAITH IS PRODUCED BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD!** Consider the following passages:

1. Acts 15:7 — **"... Peter said. Men and brethren, ye know how a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe."** NOTE: Without hearing the word of the gospel the Gentiles would **not** believe! Hearing the word of the gospel is essential to believing!

2. In John 17:20 in His prayer

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Editorial . . .

“MOTHER’S” DAY OUT

There is a “program” provided by some churches (including some churches of Christ) called “**Mothers’ Day Out.**” In this “program” usually there is at least one day a week set aside by the local church to provide the facilities and personnel to take care of the children while the mothers take a day away from their children to do other things. It may be that the church charges (and in most cases it does) a fee for this service.

Is it **Scriptural** for a church to provide a “baby sitting service” such as a “**Mothers’ Day Out**” arrangement?

We cannot determine whether it is **Scriptural** or not by appealing to: (1) The practice that prevails among a number of churches, (2) Whether or not mothers need some time away from their children, or (3) Our likes, dislikes, or preferences. Neither can we settle the question by appealing to human wisdom. We must make our appeal to God’s inspired Word in order to determine whether such an arrangement is **Scriptural!** We

learn from 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that the **Scriptures** will instruct us in “**righteousness**” and will “**thoroughly**” furnish the man of God “**unto all good works.**”

I would like to call on those who practice (or who defend) churches providing such things as “**Mothers’ Day Out**” to show from the **Scriptures** the **AUTHORITY** for such activities. Those who practice such things are obligated to show authorization for them. We would like to see “**Book, Chapter and Verse!**” We are **NOT** demanding specific **naming** of the practice. We are asking for **authorization** from the **Scriptures** in any form! Unless there is something in the **Scriptures** that I have overlooked a candid consideration of the following facts, **Scriptures** and principles should convince every sincere Bible student that a “**Mothers’ Day Out**” program is **NOT authorized in the Scriptures**

1. A “**Mothers’ Day Out**” program is nothing more than a “baby sitting” (or child care) service where a church provides the facilities for and arranges to take care of children for their parents. The church providing the service usually charges a fee for its services like others charge for theirs. In other words, the church thus becomes a secular business organization!

2. A “**Mothers’ Day Out**” program is designed and worked out wholly by man’s wisdom!

3. There is **NO COMMAND** in the **Scriptures** for a church to arrange and provide the facilities

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“Mothers’ Day Out”

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for a “child care service” such as **“Mothers’ Day Out!”**

5. There is **NO EXAMPLE** in the Scriptures where any church ever arranged and provided the facilities for a **“Mothers’ Day Out”** baby sitting service!

6. There is **NO STATEMENT** in the Scriptures that authorizes a church to arrange and provide the facilities for a **“Mothers’ Day Out”** baby sitting service or a day care center for children of any age!

7. A person can**NOT promote, endorse or encourage a church providing a “Mothers’ Day Out”** baby sitting or child care service without violating the principles found in such passages as Colossians 3:17; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9 and Revelation 22:18-18.

8. It is **NOT a good work** for a church to arrange and provide facilities for a **“Mothers’ Day Out”** program since the Scriptures do **NOT** furnish us unto it! (Cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

9. A church can**NOT** arrange and provide facilities for a **“Mothers’ Day Out”** program to the glory of God since it is **NOT authorized** in the Scriptures! (Cf. 1 Cor. 10:31).

10. There is **NO Scriptural authority** for a church to become a **secular business organization!** If it is authorized to become such whether in the Scriptures do we find that authorization?

11. Is it **Scriptural** for a church to operate one secular business (a baby sitting or child care business) and **not** Scriptural for a church to operate **ANY “honest”** secular

business it may desire to operate? If so, on what Scriptural basis? Can a church Scripturally operate a grocery store, service station, barber shop, bank, dry cleaners, or a dog sitting service? It is inconsistent to try to justify a church operating one secular business (such as a baby sitting service) and condemn a church operating another secular business (such as a service station or a dog sitting service)! If not, please tell us **why!** NOTE: Please read and study carefully 1 Pet. 4:11; Eph 5:10; 1 Cor. 4:6 & 2 John 9).

12. When a church involves itself in a secular business (charging fees for its services or products) it is in **unfair competition** with others who provide similar services or products. NOTE: A church is **tax-exempt!** Other businesses are not! If I were in business having to pay taxes I would resent the unfair advantage that churches have and take when they involve themselves in secular business. No doubt, many business men feel that way.

Brethren isn’t it about time for churches to get out of secular business and get on with the work of spreading the gospel, edifying the saints and relieving the destitute saints among us for whom the church is responsible? I plead with every saint to sincerely work and pray to the end that God’s Will will be done in **ALL** matters and **His name glorified in all** that we do! Both collectively and individually!

(CRS)

HOW IS FAITH PRODUCED?

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to the Father concerning those who would hear the word of the apostles, Jesus said: **“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.”** NOTE: The word taught by the apostles would cause others to believe.

3. In Jonah 3:5, after Jonah preached the preaching that God bade him, we read: **“So the people of Ninevah believed God, . . .”**

4. In acts 17:11 we learn that the Bereans received the word spoken by Paul and Silas “with all readiness of mind and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” NOTE: The result can be seen. In verse 12 we read: **“Therefore many of them believed. . .”**

5. Read Romans 10:12-18. Verse 14 says: **“. . . How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”** Verse 17 says: **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”**

When God gave instructions to Moses and Aaron in Numbers 20:7-8 and they failed to obey them, God said: **“Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given thee.”** NOTE: True belief accepts and carries out instructions given by the Lord!

The Word of God produces faith in our hearts! There is no other way to receive faith! We urge you to HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD as revealed in the Scriptures!

(CRS)

CORRECTION: Last month in THE INSTRUCTOR, page 2, paragraph 2 of the right column a “NOT” was inserted where there should have been an “AND.” It should have read: “He that believeth AND IS BAPTIZED shall be saved; . . .”

NOTICE: If you haven’t already done so, please use your “911” number! Thanks!

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Patience includes the ability to let your light shine after you have blown a fuse.

* * * * *

The only way to see a rainbow is to look through the rain.

* * * * *

Your work is a commentary on your character.

* * * * *

If you skate on thin ice, you will end up in hot water.

* * * * *

A clear conscience, like a soft pillow, will help you sleep well.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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