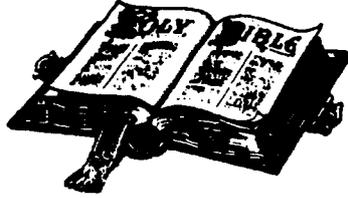


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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Number 4

## CHRISTIANS ARE SOWERS

In Eccl. 3:2 Solomon says there is a **"...a time to plant,..."** As there must be planting (or sowing) of physical seed in order to produce and reap certain harvests, there must also be the sowing (planting) of spiritual seed in order for us to reap certain spiritual harvests. We will reap according to what we sow. Paul declared; **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."** (Gal. 6:7-8).

### INIQUITY

It is possible to sow iniquity, Solomon said: **"He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity:..."** (Prov. 22:8). Through Hosea to Israel God said: **"Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies; because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men."** (10:13). If we sow iniquity and plow wickedness we will reap vanity and iniquity! In sowing

to our flesh we are sowing iniquity!  
RIGHTEOUSNESS

We should be sowing righteousness! Proverbs 11:18 says: **"...but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."** To know what is right (and thus be able to sow righteousness) we must go to the Scriptures! (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rom. 1:16-17; Acts 10:34-35; Jer. 10:23).

We should sow righteousness in word! We are responsible and will give an account for every word that we say. (See Mt. 12:36-37.) We should sow righteousness in deed. We are responsible and will give an account of every thing we do; even things we do in secret. (See Eccl. 12:13-14; Rev. 20:12; James 2:12; also see Col. 3:17).

### THE WORD OF GOD

In the parable of the sower Jesus said: **"The seed is the word of God."** (Luke 8:11). Christians are to be sowers of the word of God. The disciples were told to **"...teach all nations..."** (Cf. Matt. 28:19). They were told to **"...preach the gospel to every creature..."** (Cf. Mark 16:15-16). The gospel of Christ **"...is the power of God unto salva-**

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# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial ...

### FOR HE HAD MARRIED HER

In Mark 6:17-20 we read: **“For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias’ sake, his brother Philip’s wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother’s wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.”**

From the above reading we can learn the following facts.

1. Herod had John taken and put him in prison.

2. Herod imprisoned John because of Herodias. She had a quarrel against John because John had condemned Herod for having her (Herodias).

3. John had said unto Herod: **“It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother’s wife.”**

4. Herodias was Philip’s wife! Philip was Herod’s brother.

5. Herod had married Herodias. Herodias was still Philip’s wife although Herod “had married her.”

6. It was “not lawful” for Herod “to have” Herodias although “he had married her!”

7. The text does not tell us why it was “unlawful” for Herod to have Herodias. Some claim it was “unlawful” because it was a case of incest. However, it would be difficult to prove that such was the case.

Please consider the following observations.

1. Herodias was Herod’s wife (unlawfully) since “he had married her.”

2. Herodias was still “Philip’s wife” although she was now married to Herod! For further clarification please consider the following.

a. Lawfully (i.e., according to the law of God and thus with God’s approval) Herodias was still Philip’s wife.

b. Legally (i.e., according to civil law but without God’s approval) Herodias was now the wife of Herod.)

3. Although Herodias was now the wife of Herod (according to civil law), it was “not lawful” (since God did not approve of it) for Herod “to have her!” Therefore John reprovved Herod for having her.

4. Herodias had a grudge against John and desired that he be killed because of John’s rebuke of Herod. When an opportunity arose Herodias asked for John’s “head in a charger” and her request was granted.

Here are some conclusions we may draw from the above facts and observations.

1. A woman may be the wife of one man while “married” to another man! God does not approve of a woman being “married” to another man while being the wife of a prior man. We, like John, should con-

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## **“FOR HE HAD MARRIED HER**

demn such a situation!

2. A woman does not cease being the wife of one man (her husband) necessarily just because she marries another man!

3. A man may be “married” to a woman and yet she may be the wife of another man!

4. A man may be “married” to a woman and yet it may not be “lawful” for him “to have” her!

5. It is “not lawful” (according to God’s law) for a man “to have” a woman although he marries her if she is another man’s wife!

6. We, like John, may incur the wrath of a woman when we say to a man (who is “married” to her while she is another man’s wife): **“It is not lawful for you to have her!”**

Let each of us keep in mind that Jesus taught that **“Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery; and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery”**. (Luke 16:18; also see Mark 10:11-12). NOTE: The only exception that Jesus gives to the above is found in Matthew 19:9. There He declared that: **“Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery:...”** The only person in a marriage who has a right to marry another is the person who divorces his (or her) companion for this cause of fornication.

We must not allow our likes, dislikes, preferences or our feelings to cause us to set aside the plain teaching of the Word of God!

## **DOES MAN HAVE A SOUL THAT NEEDS SAVING?**

So-called “Jehovah’s witnesses” and other materialists contend that

man does not have an eternal soul (or spirit) that is lost because of sin and thus needs to be saved. “Jehovah’s witnesses” contend that man **is** a soul but man does not **have** a soul. Is this true? How can we know? Religious tradition is not the answer. Neither human reasonings nor imaginations will give us the correct answer. Our appeal must be to the Word of God! It will instruct us in what is right. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Mt. 15:8-9; John 8:32 & Rom. 10:17). Hear what the Scripture says.

The word “soul” is sometimes used in the Scripture to designate a “person.” The expression “seventy souls” in Exo. 1:5 means “seventy persons” (or people). However, it is not always used in that sense. Often it is used to designate “the inward man” in contrast with “the outward man.” (See Matt. 10:28; 2 Kings 4:27; Job 14:22; Rev. 6:9; John 12:27; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Cor. 4:16).

Now to the question: **Does man have a soul that needs saving?** The following Scriptures give us the correct answer.

James 5:20 - **Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death,...**

1 Peter 1:9 - **“Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”**

James 1:21 - **“...And receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul.”**

Mark 8:36-37 - **“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”** (Also see I Pet. 1:22 & Heb. 10:39.)

Yes, man has a soul that needs saving!

(Continued from page 1)

**CHRISTIANS ARE SOWERS**

**tion.”** (See Rom. 1:16). The word of truth (the gospel) must be sown in order for there to be a spiritual begetting! (Cf. James 1:18). Peter said: **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever.”** (Pet. 1:23).

Sowing the proper seed requires knowledge, wisdom, diligence and patience! If we sow sparingly we shall reap sparingly. To reap bountifully we must sow bountifully! (Cf. 2 Cor. 9:6) Sometimes tears accompany our sowing but we may rejoice as we reap. **“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy...”** (Psa. 126:5-6).

Let us not become weary in sowing **“...for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”**

(CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

You are invited to attend a series of **GOSPEL MEETINGS** in **EAST ALBERTVILLE April 10-14, 1996** at **7:00 PM** except on Sunday. Then we will meet at our regular times. Here are the speakers:

**April 10 (Wed.) – CARLOS BARNES**

**April 11 (Thurs.) – RODNEY PITTS**

**April 12 (Fri.) – MIKE WHITE**

**April 13 (Sat.) – BOBBY HALL**

**April 14 (9:30 am) – ROLAND PERSALL**

**April 14 (10:30 am) – DORRIS RADER**

**April 14 (6:00 pm) – GERALD SUTTON**

Please make plans to be with us! Tell others!

**HOSEA THE PROPHET SAID:** “For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind:...” (8:7)

**- SENTENCE SERMONS -**

If we listen to the truth we will look inward, outward and upward.

\* \* \* \* \*

Only those who read the “road map” will learn how to go to heaven.

\* \* \* \* \*

A work of faith and a labour of love will not be forgotten.

\* \* \* \* \*

A grudge is too heavy a load for anyone to carry.

\* \* \* \* \*

Lessons learned in hard times should be remembered in good times.

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