

# 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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## WERE YOU SAVED AT "AN OLD-FASHION ALTAR"?

Quite frequently I will hear a denominational preacher say, "I was saved at *"an old-fashion altar"* so many years ago. Or he may ask, "Were you saved at *"an old-fashion altar"*? Or he may say, "If you want to be saved, you need to find you *'an old-fashion altar'* somewhere and get down on your knees and pray through to salvation." But he never gives one verse of Scripture that teaches such!

Let us examine (try, test, prove) the above statements in the light of the NT and see what it teaches relative to the things that are mentioned above and that are taught by many preachers. (See Matt. 7:15-20; 1 John 4:1; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:8; Rev. 2:2).

There is not one verse in the NT that even mentions *"an old-fashion altar"*.

There is not one verse that teaches that we should find *"an old-fashion altar"* somewhere.

There is not one verse that teaches that we should pray at *"an old-fashion altar"* somewhere.

There is not one passage that teaches that an alien sinner can be saved by *"praying through"*.

NOTE: Preachers who preach praying through at *"an old-fashion altar"* are false teachers! They should be so ashamed of themselves that they would quit preaching such false doctrine!

Let us go to the NT and see what it teaches alien sinners to do in order to be saved from past sins.

Sinners are taught that in order order for them to come unto God, they **"must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."** (Heb. 11:6). Jesus said: **"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God..."** (John 6:44). In order for a sinner to have *saving faith*, he must *hear* the word of God because **"...Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Rom. 10:17).

*Faith* (or belief) in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is absolutely essential to salvation from past sins as well as necessary for eternal life in heaven. (Cont'd on p 4)

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**Editorial...**

**"A GOOD SOLDIER OF JESUS CHRIST"**

(2 Tim. 2:3)

In writing to Timothy, Paul said: "**Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**" (2 Tim. 2:3)

When a person obeys the first principles of the gospel of Christ, he becomes a child of God and thus enters into the "army" of the Lord and becomes a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every child of God is a soldier of Jesus Christ. Each of us should strive to be "a good soldier".

Let us consider some characteristics of "**A Good Soldier of Jesus Christ**". As always, the NT will be our standard to determine what pleases God.

**I. A GOOD SOLDIER PUTS ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD.**

(Read Eph. 6:10-20). In v 11 Paul said "**Put on the whole armour of God...**"

A. Let us consider three reasons why we should do this.

---That we "**may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil**". (See v 11).

---*We have a fight before us!* (See v 12).

---That we "**may be able to withstand in the evil day**"! (See v 13).

B. We *should have* "**our loins girt about with truth**". (See v 14). There is no substitute for truth. It will enable us to fight as we should.

C. We *should have on* "**the breastplate of righteousness**". (See v 14). It will protect us against the enemy.

D. Our *feet should be* "**shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace**". (See v 15). We are to be peacemakers! (Mt. 5:9 & Heb. 12:14)

E. We *should take* "**the shield of faith**" that we shall "**be able to quence all the fiery darts of the wicked**". (See v 16).

F. We *should* "**take the helmet of salvation**". (See v 17). This will serve as protection for us.

G. We *should* also "**take the sword of the Spirit**", which is "**the word of God**". (See v 17). The sword of the Spirit is "**sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**" It will enable us to fight aggressively against the enemies of truth and righteousness.

**II. A GOOD SOLDIER HAS THE PROPER WEAPONS!**

A. A good soldier does not depend on material or other car-

nal weapons of any kind. He does not depend upon material weapons such as guns, knives, bombs, etc. Neither does he use carnal weapons such as deceit (as lying, hypocrisy, etc), flattery, gossip, backbiting, slander, evil surmising, etc. (See 2 Cor. 10:3-5; Prov. 11:18; 26:20-28; Mark 7:20-23; Prov. 29:5; 20:19; 1 Peter 1:1-2; Rev. 21:8; 22:15; Psa. 15:3; Prov. 25:23; Rom. 1:29-30; 1 Tim. 6:4; Eph. 4:25; 3:9, etc). All these (and similar things) are carnal in nature and thus they are sinful.

The weapons of a good soldier are *spiritual* in nature. Paul said: "**(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ**". (2 Cor. 10:4-5)

The apostle Paul stated: "**For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh**" (2 Cor. 10:3). Since we do not war after the flesh, it is evident that our weapons are spiritual, not material or carnal. We should always keep in mind that we are at war, but that we are engaged in a *spiritual* war. Our primary weapon is "**the sword of the Spirit**" which is "**the word of God**" as stated in Eph. 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12.

In order to "**fight**" as we should in this "*war*" in which we are engaged, it is absolutely essential that we *learn* the word of God and also learn how to *wield* it effectively in battle!

### III. A GOOD SOLDIER HAS THE PROPER ATTITUDE!

A. He recognizes that he is

(and must always be) *subject* to his Lord, who is Jesus Christ! He recognizes that Christ has "**all power**" (authority - ed) "**in heaven and in earth**". (See Mt. 28:18). He is "**far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named; not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.**" (See Eph. 1:21). We must *think* as He directs. We must *respect* His wishes and *obey* all his commands.

### IV. A GOOD SOLDIER DOES NOT ENTANGLE HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE.

A. In 2 Tim. 2:4 Paul stated that "**No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**" We should learn from this that if we entangle ourselves (i.e., get involved in to the point that we are confused about what our obligations are as soldiers) with the affairs of this life, we cannot please Christ.

B. We must not entangle ourselves with "**the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.**" We must not allow things of "**this present world**" and "**pleasures of this life**" to entangle us. (See Mark 4:19; 1 Tim. 6:9-10; 2 Tim. 4:10; Luke 8:14) We must seek "**first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.**" (See Mt. 6:33).

### V. A GOOD SOLDIER MUST STRIVE LAWFULLY!

A. In 2 Tim. 2:5 we read: "**And if a man strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.**" We learn from this principle that as we *strive* for, *contend* for, and *fight* for truth

and righteousness, we must do so according to the law of Christ!

Unlawful striving is forbidden in 2 Tim. 2:24-25- which says: "**And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.**"

B. All of our work, worship and service must be *authorized* in the New Testament of Christ! (See Col. 3:17; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9-11; Mt. 7:21-23).

(To be cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

John 20:31 says: "**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.**" (Also see John 3:16; 3:36; 1 John 4:9; Acts 16:30-31.)

*Repentance* is a condition that an alien sinner must meet in

order to have his sins forgiven. In Luke 13:3 & 13:5 Jesus said: "**I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**" In Acts 2:38 Peter told sinners to "**Repent...for the remission of sins...**" In Acts 3:19 he said: "**Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...**"

*Confession of faith* in Jesus Christ as Lord, as being the Son of God, is a condition of salvation. See Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37; 1 John 4:15; etc.

*Baptism* in water is essential to salvation. See Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21, etc.

No one has ever been saved by going to "*an old-fashion altar*" and "praying through"! A sinner *must believe* and *obey* God to be saved! (CRS)

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## SENTENCE SERMONS

There are people who can find more dirt listening to a telephone than in a vacuum cleaner bag.

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Obedience to God's will is not legalism – it is the essence of revealed grace religion.

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Make absolutely sure you have the right to jump – before you jump to a conclusion!

\* \* \* \* \*

If you have a loose tongue, ask God to put his hand over your mouth.

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