

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 2

AUGUST, 1965

Number 8

WHAT PUT INTO THE CHURCH?

If people in general would get in their minds what was put in the church and what we are to put in it, there would be more who would be working in it and appreciating what they should about the church. No one with such knowledge would intimate that people could be saved out of the church as well as in it. They would love it more and do more to spread the news around the world about the church.

Christ put his life in it, (Matt. 20:28), in that he gave himself for it. (Eph. 5:25). Yes, he died that the church might be. Then he put his blood in it as he purchased it therewith. (Acts 20:28). With such sacrifice as he gave, one can see a reason for his being the head of it. (Eph. 5:23). Now would you ever believe that all this would be done for that which was and is worthless? If we make a lot of effort that is useless, that may well be said about us, but not the Lord himself. For he is too wise to act without purpose or righteousness.

Then there was put in the church the Spirit as it came on the day of Pentecost to guide the apostles into all the truth. Yes, that was the Comforter to come which Christ had promised before he left the world. And when those who accepted the teaching of the Spirit as

was told by those inspired men and were saved, the Lord added them to the church. (Acts 2:47). So the saved were put in it. Then there was the need of the word for all to follow the right way, so that was put in the church to be read before the assembly. (Col. 4:16). This is not so well thought of in many churches today and so they either have a discipline of their own written, or use one of their own unwritten, and ignore what the Word of God says. The Lord's table is put in the Church or Kingdom for his people to eat thereof. (Lk. 22:30). So no one who is not in the church has a right to eat at that table. It is for the house of God or the church which is the house of God. (1 Tim. 3:15).

What we put in the church depends largely on what we think of it and what we know of it. Surely we should be ready to put our souls in it as Paul and Barnabas went about comforting the souls of those who were in the church. (Acts 14:22). That is a very important thing to know for if we appreciate that then we will come nearer in the abounding in the work of the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58). Then, too, we ought to be ready to put our money in it in a regular way as stated in 1 Cor. 16:1-2. This we will do if we love the church as we should. Yes,

(Cont'd on page 3)

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Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Ala.

CARROL R. SUTTON,
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Editorial . . .

"A GREAT MAN HAS FALLEN"

Emory Lee Gunter was born in Blount County, Alabama on January 25, 1925. He preached his first sermon in Boaz, Alabama in 1947 and his last one in Plant City, Florida on July 7, 1965. Although a relatively young man, Bro. Gunter preached the gospel of Jesus Christ nearly eighteen years. His preaching carried him into six states. He preached in the following states: Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Florida. He did regular local work at the following places: Sharpe, Kentucky in 1949-1950, Ashland City, Tennessee in 1951-1952, East Albertville in Albertville, Alabama in 1952-1960, Stevens Ave., in Huntsville, Alabama in 1960-1963, Largo, Florida in 1963-1964 and Merritt Island, Florida in 1964-1965.

Bro. Gunter departed from this life on July 17, 1965 in the Huntsville Hospital, Huntsville, Alabama, at the age of forty years. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Willie Lee Black Gunter and one daughter, Mrs. James Ray Ford of St. Petersburg, Florida, and a number of other relatives. At the time of his death, he was residing at 1111 Hickory Lane, Cocoa, Florida. Funeral services were conducted by Charles G. Maples, Quentin McCay, Arvid McGuire, Baxter Evans and this writer. His body was laid to rest in Marshall Memory Gardens at Albertville, Alabama to await the resurrection.

When Abner, the son of Her died, David, King of Israel, said unto his servants: "KNOW YE NOT THAT THERE IS A PRINCE AND A GREAT MAN FALLEN THIS DAY IN ISRAEL." (2 Sam. 3:38). It is the judgment of this writer that these words very aptly describe Bro. Gunter. Although he made some mistakes, HE WAS A GREAT MAN! No, he was not considered great by the people of the world. He did not possess worldly wisdom or wealth. He did not make any outstanding achievements in the political, social, scientific or entertainment fields. Neither was he popular with the world because he was not of this world.

HE WAS A GREAT MAN BECAUSE HE WAS A MAN OF FAITH! At any early age his faith in God and in Jesus Christ as being God's Son moved him in obedience to the first principles of the oracles of God. Thus upon a confession of his faith, he was baptized into Christ. He believed the Bible to be inspired of God and was willing to accept its teaching as he learned the truth. His faith caused him to move with fear in his worship and service to God.

HE WAS A MAN OF COURAGE! He had an uncompromising spirit when truth was involved. He did not shun his duty to rebuke error. Those who knew him and heard him preach did not wonder where he stood. On different occasions he preached a sermon on "NO MIDDLE GROUND." He reproved sin and error wherever he saw it existing—whether out of or in the church. Although his preaching was with great boldness and plainness of speech, it was characterized by a kind disposition.

HE WAS A LOVER OF TRUTH! He realized the importance of truth. It was valued very highly by him. He hated error. His battle against spiritual error and wickedness was an aggressive one. His love for the truth and the Lord's church and his hatred for human systems was evidenced by his preaching.

HE WAS A MAN OF HUMILITY. Although Bro. Gunter was courageous enough to fight sin and error wherever he saw it raise its ugly head, he did so realizing his weaknesses and feeling his dependence upon God. Pride and arrogance were no part of his life. He endeavored to glorify God. He was humble enough to perform any needed service.

(Cont'd on page 3)

"Come, Let Us Reason Together"

Remember the public discussion of Bible subjects is to be conducted in the Coliseum here in Albertville, A'a., September 14-17, 1965 at 7:30 each evening.

The disputants in this discussion will be Mr. Albert H. Batts of The Church of God (of Cleveland, Tenn.) and Carrol R. Sutton of the Church of Christ. On Sept. 14th and 15th, Carrol R. Sutton will affirm that "The Bible teaches water baptism is a condition of pardon for an alien sinner." Mr. Batts will deny this proposition. On Sept. 16th and 17th, Mr. Albert H. Batts will affirm that "The Bible teaches Holy Ghost baptism is for believers today as in the days of the apostles." Carrol R. Sutton will deny this proposition.

We appreciate the willingness of Mr. O'Neal Franks and The Church of God on Baltimore Ave., in Albertville to engage in a discussion of this nature, and to bring Mr. Batts to Albertville for this series of discussions. Mr. Batts is well-known among The Churches of God and is an experienced debator. No doubt, he is as well qualified as any, to defend the doctrines of The Church of God.

We cordially invite and urge you to attend this religious discussion! See and hear "firsthanded" what takes place! You may never again have an opportunity like this! Let us try to fill the Coliseum! Good is bound to come from a candid investigation of God's Word!

COURTESY

I am a little thing with a big meaning. I help everyone. I unlock doors, and hearts; banish prejudice. I create friendship and goodwill. I inspire respect and admiration. I violate no law, and I cost nothing. I am pleasing to those of high and low degrees. I am useful every moment. I am COURTESY. (author unknown).

(Cont'd from page 1)

WHAT PUT IN THE CHURCH

We will not be so sparingly in our giving as so many are now. Too, we need to put our time in the working of the church services and demands that naturally come if it is kept alive. We will feel as did Christ that we must work the works of him that sent him while it is day. (John 9:4). Yes, we need more who feel the need of holding up the church in its rightful place before the world and in the sight of the Lord.

But some might ask, why put so much in the church? It is indeed the greatest organization in the world. It has the greatest mission of any and is headed by the greatest person that ever lived on the earth. And when we know that all spiritual blessings are in it, then we see the need of getting ourselves put in it. (Eph. 1:3). And that we are to give our glory to God in it. (Eph. 3:21). The Lord does not want those who are in the church to get out into some other order and try to do good deeds and give glory to him therein. That sets aside all the work and love manifested to establish his church and surely anyone can see why that would not be pleasing to him. Then since he is the Saviour of the body, and is coming for the church to take her home where she will be with him forever, (1 Thess. 4:16), we can well see the need of being in the church and putting in it our who'e being and interest. Since no saved person is out of the church, we who are saved need to put much in it to keep saved. Will we do so?

—By Lee Gunter as it appeared in the East Albertville Bulletin on Nov. 13, 1959.

(Cont'd from page 2)

"A GREAT MAN HAS FALLEN"

HE WAS A MAN OF HOPE! His thoughts often centered on the beauties and grandeur of heaven because he spoke of them often. He lived and died in hope of eternal salvation.

It has not been the purpose of this writer to "glorify" Bro. Gunter, but to simply give "honor" where "honor" is due. This writer feels a personal loss in the departing of Lee Gunter. I feel that my life, as well as hundreds of others has been enriched by my knowledge of and association with this humble servant of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

(CRS)

PROFANITY DOES MATTER

With profanity as rife as it is, one wonders whether many men and women have ever considered the matter seriously and especially Christians. Profanity shows far more weakness than toughness. It never did any man the least good. No man is richer, happier, or wiser for it. Behind it stands weakness in vocabulary, in mentality, and in personality. Profanity is a confession of inability to express oneself in proper language.

Profanity, too, is due to poor self-control, another aspect of a weak character. It is no tribute to a man's self-control that he resorts to profanity when something irritates or angers him. A tongue under control is a mark of Biblical influence in a well-disciplined and mature person. (Jas. 3:2).

Profanity is irreverent. It uses God's name in vain to support unholy anger. "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exo. 20:7). It is not smart to take God's name in vain. There is nothing to be gained by being irreverent toward the name of God. Since there are about 400,000 words in the English language, a person should be able to express himself without cursing. In fact, it reflects upon man's intelligence. It signifies that the

person has not the ability to express his feelings without being irreverent toward God.

There is a member of the church in this congregation that has been heard to take God's name in vain by other members of this congregation and even by some, of which are not even members of the church. My good brother, you will have to confess that wrong before the church because you have brought reproach upon the church. My heart bleeds to think how we have worked, and so hard at that, to build up the church here in East Albertville, and then some member in the congregation gets out and curse and swear and bring reproach upon the church. You don't read of a CUSSING CHRISTIAN in the Word of God. May God help you to see your error is my prayer.

(The above article on PROFANITY was written by Lee Gunter. It was taken from the Nov. 5, 1959 issue of the bulletin of the East Albertville Congregation).

IF WE DO NOT ALREADY HAVE IT,
PLEASE SEND US YOUR ZIP CODE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! THANKS!

Sentence Sermons

You are in no position to recommend the "bread of life" to others if you act as though it disagrees with you.

There will be fewer "problem children" when parents are properly "disciplined."

A gentleman never swears he has a better vocabulary.

We should teach our daughters to dress in such a manner as to be chaste rather than to be chased.

Sometimes you can know which way you are headed by looking at the crowd with you.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1003 Baltimore Ave.
Albertville, Ala. 35950

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at Albertville, Alabama