

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Timothy 3:16*

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## INVESTIGATE AND REINVESTIGATE

Sometimes we have a tendency to become angry when things which members of the church have taught and practiced for quite some time are questioned. We are likely to reply, "We've been doing that for over one hundred years." Such a statement is neither justification, nor divine authorization; it is merely an appeal to tradition and prejudice, which often leads people astray. (Matt. 15:2-6; Col. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18).

It was just such an attitude as that expressed in the statement, "Why, we've been doing that for over one hundred years!" that caused the Jews to reject Christ. (Matt. 15:2-6). Though Christ fulfilled the prophecies to the very letter, their tradition had taught them that the Messiah would be a much different type of person than Christ appeared to be. They expected an earthly, not a spiritual, king and saviour. Even the apostles were somewhat tainted with this tradition. (Acts 1:6). Had the Jews reinvestigated, they might have discovered their error, and have become ardent followers of the Son of God.

It has been the lack of investigation that has perpetuated the denominations and their errors. Most of the so-called

Protestants have progressed very little from the teachings and practices of their founders. In fact, many of them have regressed! For instance, Luther repudiated his followers rejecting the name "Christian" for "Lutheran." Most of the Great Reformers condemned the use of instrumental music in worship. Men like Luther and other reformers, it is true, accomplished prodigious tasks. But they were humans and sometimes erred. Their followers should have reinvestigated the teachings and practices of these men, and where in error, rather than continuing in that error, have discarded it, going on unto New Testament perfection.

So it is with us. We should not accept without question any point of doctrine or practice which our teachers and forerunners in the church accepted. They were humans, and subject to error. Doubtless many of them did err. We do not want to follow in their steps of error. However, we do want to accept, defend, and abide by all the scriptural things which they espoused. The only way that we can be sure to do this, is to subject every point of doctrine and practice to a thorough and impartial investigation in the light of the Scriptures. All which they embraced

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## Editorial . . .

### Conviction or Convenience

True conviction involves a firm or settled belief based upon evidence contained in the Word of God. Our actions should be determined by and based on our convictions. When we act in religious matters because of convenience instead of conviction, we are not pleasing to God.

#### EXAMPLES OF CONVENIENCE

No doubt Cain's offering of the fruit of the ground was an offering of convenience rather than one of conviction. It was not by faith. It did not please God. (See Gen. 4:1-7). The strange fire offered before the Lord by Nadab and Abihu may have been conveniently offered, but it displeased the Lord. They did not act out of true conviction. "And there went out fire from the Lord, and they died before the Lord." (Lev. 10:2). Jereboam's system of worship was instituted as a matter of convenience for the children of Israel, but they were guilty of idolatry. They did not worship the true God out of conviction, but rather they worshipped false gods out of convenience. "And this thing became a sin . . ." (1 Kings 12:30).

#### EXAMPLES OF CONVICTION

The actions of Noah in building the

ark were not prompted by convenience but rather by conviction. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (Heb. 11:7). "Thus did Noah, according to all that God commanded him, so did he." (Gen. 6:22). Abraham "was called the Friend of God" because he obeyed God in spite of the fact that it was not always convenient to do so. He left his country and kinsmen and went into a country where God sent him. He "offered Isaac" upon the altar because of his firm and settled belief in the God of heaven. Because of his conviction Daniel "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God" in spite of the fact that a decree had been established and signed that if anyone asked a petition of any God or man for thirty days, except of the King, that he would be cast into a den of lions. (See Daniel 6). The life of the apostles and many other early Christians attest to the conviction they had. Their faith was demonstrated by their work and their labour of love. They rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### A GROWING TENDENCY

It seems that there is a growing tendency to be "religious" only IF it is convenient. Some people may obey a "form" in order to please a companion rather than to please God. Others may "obey" for business reasons or because it is popular. Some will attend periods of Bible study and worship only if the building is nice and conveniently located. Giving may be done by some out of convenience rather than out of conviction. Some will pray, sing, study, teach, visit and assist the needy ONLY IF it is convenient for them. Some preachers will take a "stand" and "con-

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# Baptism And Salvation

There are six passage in the Book of God containing "baptism" and in some form "salvation" or "remission" and in every one of those six passages the order is first, "baptism" and next "remission" or "salvation". There are other passages containing "baptism" and other passages containing "salvation" or "remission" but these are the only passages containing both "baptism" and "salvation" or "remission" in the same passage. Here they are, NOTICE the ORDER.

"John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." (Mk. 1:4-5). "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins." (LK 3:3). "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." (Mk. 16: 16). "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . ." (Acts 2:38). "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins . . ." (Acts 22:16). "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us . . ." (1 Pet. 3:21).

There they are. Get your Bible and check for yourself and then be honest with God and His Word and with yourself by accepting baptism as a condition of salvation or remission of sins. God's Word is right and those who go by it are right. Those who refuse to go by it cannot claim to be right.  
—J. E. Green in

THE EYE OPENER

## A PROBLEM

The greatest problem of the church is not that of winning others to the kingdom, but that of arousing those who are already members to a feeling of their responsibility.

# THE FAITHFUL FEW

In every church, in every clime,  
When there's some work to do,  
It's very likely to be done  
By just the "Faithful Few."

Many folks will help to sing,  
And some are glad to talk;  
But when it comes to doing things  
A lot of them will balk.

"I can't do this, I can't do that;  
Excuse me, please, this time—  
I'd be glad to help you out,  
But it's not in my line."

So when the brethren look about  
For some who'll help to "do,"  
They nearly always have to ge  
And ask the "Faithful Few."

They know full well they're busy, too,  
And always hard at work.  
Yet they are sure they'll not refuse  
Not any duty shirk.

They never stop to make excuses  
But always try to do  
The very, very best they can  
To smooth the way for you.

God bless, I pray, the "Faithful Few,"  
And may their tribe increase.  
They must be very precious to  
The blessed Prince of Peace.

—Chester Shuler

## A PROVERB

PROVERBS 28:4—"They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them."

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## CONVICTION OR CONVENIENCE

tend for the faith" on certain issues ONLY IF it is convenient to do so. Otherwise, they continue to "study the question" and remain undecided. It may be that the "pulse" of the brotherhood and "influential preachers" may make it convenient for them to remain "undecided." Sometimes it is "convenient" for a false teacher to misrepresent those with whom he disagrees. This is a device of Satan of which we should not be ignorant. "Convenience" prompts many people to act and react as they do.

A critical self-examination should be made by all of us. What is our true motive for acting as we do? Is it to please self, to please men, or to please God? Is it to glorify self or to glorify God?

Every act that we do in service, work, or worship should be characterized by true conviction. All of us need conviction. **CONVICTION WILL CRY OUT!** True conviction point toward heaven.

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## INVESTIGATE AND REINVESTIGATE

ed that proves to be right, let us also embrace. But whatever they embraced that proves to be wrong, let us readily, and without hesitation, discard.

Yes, let us investigate and re-investigate our position, teaching, and practice in all matters of religion.

—James L. Dennison in

FIRM FOUNDATION, June 9, 1959.

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# Sentence Sermons

You can possibly tell more about a person by his expression than by all the other things he wears.

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Nothing takes the pleasure out of life more surely than putting too much pleasure in it.

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You'll never get what you are itching for unless you are willing to get out and scratch for it

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Idleness is the rust that will attach itself to the most brilliant minds if allowed to.

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Falsehood and silence often amount to the same thing.

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