

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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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE?

If you want to make Jews, preach Moses and the Levitical law. Moses and the Levitical law never made a Christian, or a Baptist, Methodist, or a Presbyterian.

If you desire to make Methodists, preach Methodist doctrine, officially stated in the Discipline. The Methodist Discipline never made a Baptist, Presbyterian, or a Christian.

If you want to make Baptists, preach Baptist doctrine, officially stated in the New Hampshire Confession of Faith found in Pendleton's Church Manual, for use in Baptist churches. Baptist doctrine does not make Presbyterians, Methodists, or Christians.

If you wish to make Presbyterians, get the Westminster Confession, and preach the official faith of the Presbyterians stated therein. Presbyterian doctrine does not make Baptists, Christians, or Methodists.

(Editors note: If you want to make so-called Jehovah Witnesses it is necessary to teach the doctrine of The Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of Brooklyn, N.Y. If you wish to make Mormons, you should preach the doctrine of Mormonism as set forth in "the standard works

of the Mormon church." Or if you desire to make members of the "Church of God denomination," you should preach the doctrine that is set forth by their "General Assembly." The publications of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, Mormon publications and the official doctrine of the Church of God denomination will NOT make Christians anymore than any other **human doctrines** mentioned.)

But if you want to make a Christian, get the Christian's only official statement of faith, the New Testament, and preach that only. The New Testament only does not make Methodists, Baptists Presbyterians, or any thing else. It simply makes Christians.

When Paul preached, he preached "Christ and him crucified." That was all he determined to know among men. But when Paul preached "Christ and him crucified," he was then persuading men to be "Christians." Agrippa said unto Paul. "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

It takes more than Paul preached to persuade men to be anything more than Christians. No man can cite a single passage of Scripture justifying his lead-

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Editorial

IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (No. 19)

Instead of clarifying the issues of differences that exist among church of Christ, the articles written by R. W. Gray in the North Broad Bulletin served to camouflage them. In previous issues of "THE INSTRUCTOR" we have shown clearly what the **real issues** are relative to churches supporting human benevolent institutions. In the last three issues of "THE INSTRUCTOR" we have dealt with some of the erroneous ideas set forth by editor Gray relative to churches cooperating. We have also shown that **churches may cooperate** (act concurrently) in relieving "poor saints" (See 1 Cor. 16:1-4), and in **paying wages to gospel preachers.** (See 2 Cor. 11:8). In this issue, let us consider the question: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE HERALD OF TRUTH?"

WHAT IS "THE HERALD OF TRUTH?" The "Herald of Truth" is an arrangement whereby hundreds of churches contribute funds to a "sponsoring church" (the Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas), which in turn arranges and oversees and pays for radio and T.V. programs which are broadcasted nationally and possibly internationally. Is this a good work? Is it Scriptural? IT IS NOT A GOOD WORK AND HENCE

IT IS NOT SCRIPTURAL UNLESS IT IS AUTHORIZED IN GOD'S BOOK!

WHAT IS THE ISSUE? The issue is: NOT:

1. **Should the gospel be preached?** We all agree that it should be preached to "every creature" in "all nations." (See 1 Cor. 1:21; Mk. 16:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2).

2. **Does the church have a responsibility to preach the gospel?** We all agree that it **does** have such a responsibility because it is "pillar and ground of the truth." (See 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 3:10; 1 Thess. 1:8). PLEASE NOTE: **Organizationally** speaking there is nothing larger or smaller than the congregation, **the local church**, that is authorized in the Scriptures.

3. **May churches cooperate in preaching the gospel?** We all agree that they may cooperate (See 2 Cor. 11:8). Acting concurrently is cooperation.

4. **May churches use modern means such as the radio, T.V., and the printing press in preaching the gospel?** We all agree that they **may** use such means because these things aid in carrying out God's command to preach. They are subordinate (**not** co-ordinate) to preaching. The **COMMAND** to preach is carried out if these means are used or if they are **not** used, but other means (aids) are used. Compare **SINGING with or without** a song book. In either case, the **COMMAND** to **SING** is carried out.

WHAT IS THE REAL ISSUE? The issue is: "IS IT SCRIPTURAL FOR ONE OR MORE CHURCHES TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO A 'SPONSORING CHURCH' SUCH AS THE HIGHLAND CHURCH TO ENABLE IT TO PLAN AND OVERSEE THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL ON A LARGER SCALE THAN IT COULD OTHERWISE DO?" I maintain that this practice is **NOT AUTHORIZED IN GOD'S WORD**, and it is **therefore SINFUL!** Let us now consider some specific objections to "The Herald of Truth".

"THE HERALD OF TRUTH IS WRONG BECAUSE:

1. **It exists by a type of church cooperation which is NOT authorized in**

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the Scriptures. The Scriptures are **complete** for all spiritual needs. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; 1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet.4:11; Heb. 8:5; 2 John 9). God's Will as set forth in His Word constitutes authority to act. His Word is the **pattern** we must follow. In relief, churches cooperated by sending to the church in need. (See 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8:1-24). In evangelism, churches cooperated (acted concurrently) by sending wages to the preacher. (See 2 Cor. 11:8). The "Herald of Truth" type of church cooperation (the sponsoring church set-up whereby many churches sends funds to the Highland Church that is NOT "in need" to enable it to oversee the expenditure of the funds of all the churches) is NOT according to God's Word and therefore is WITHOUT Scriptural authority!

2. It reflects on God's Wisdom. God's Wisdom is revealed in God's Book. When we follow it, we are right and safe. We have shown God's Will concerning "church cooperation." With God's churches functioning in the first century as God ordained, the gospel "was preached to every creature under heaven" within 35 years from the beginning of the church on Pentecost. (See Col. 1:23; Rom. 10:16). To add man's wisdom to God's, or to substitute man's arrangement for God's way is certainly a **reflection upon God's Wisdom.**

3. It sets the wrong example for other churches to follow. Churches should be examples. (See 1 Thess. 1:7-8). The Highland church continually **begs** although she is NOT in want or destitute. She seeks to control and use the funds of other churches. By her action, she reflects upon the ability of each congregation to do it's own work. **If all churches followed the example of the Highland church, it would destroy the "Herald of Truth" set-up!** If all other churches do not have the right to follow Highland's example, **obviously the Highland church is setting the WRONG EXAMPLE!**

4. It causes division and leads into

further apostasy. In time past, an effort to centralize authority and organize the church (universal) resulted in apostasy which culminated in Roman Catholicism. It was the same attitude that formed the "**Missionary Society**" in 1849 and divided God's people. That same attitude has promoted the "**Herald of Truth**" concept of "church cooperation" for the past twenty years (or so) and has divided many churches and caused the alienation of thousands of God's children. It has opened the "flood-gate" that has allowed and IS allowing many erroneous doctrines and practices among the people of God!

5. It is not a good work. The Scriptures furnishes us **completely** to every "**good work.**" (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17). But they do NOT furnish us to such arrangements as "**The Herald of Truth.**" Therefore: "**The Herald of Truth**" is NOT a **good work.**

6. It is NOT according to the pattern because it is NOT authorized in the perfect law of liberty. (See Heb. 8:5; James 1:25).

7. It does NOT pertain to life and godliness. All things that pertains to life and godliness were given to inspired men in the first century who in turn recorded them that we might know what pertains to life and godliness. (See 2 Pet. 1:3). The "**Herald of Truth**" is NOT authorized in the Scriptures. Therefore, it does NOT pertain to life and godliness.

8. It can NOT be supported or promoted "in the name of", that is, "by the authority of", Christ. (See Col. 3:17). Nothing can be done in the name of Christ **unless** He has authorized it!

9. It is NOT in the doctrine of Christ, hence it is transgressive and sinful! (See 2 John 9).

10. It can NOT be supported or promoted to the "glory of God." All we do must be done to the "glory of God." (See 1 Cor. 10:31). Since God's Word does NOT authorize the "H.O.T." set-up, it can NOT be supported or promoted to the "glory of God."

We plead with R. W. Gray and the

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WHAT DO YOU WANT TO MAKE?

ing you into a denomination. Why? Simply because the system of denominations is NOT Scriptural, and is therefore wrong.

—Taken from **Just A Moment**, 2/25/50

AN EXCERPT FROM THE MIDFIELD BULLETIN

“...I received a letter recently from a friend of mine in Kentucky concerning the debate between Carrol Sutton and the Mormon High Priest that took place in East Gadsden. The letter told me that two people who had attended the discussion had just obeyed the gospel. These two were a man and his wife. The man had been a Mormon; his wife was from a Pentecostal background. Naturally, they had not completely learned the truth just by means of the debate, but this was what had ‘put the icing on the cake.’ In this we rejoice.”

—Hiram Hutto, Aug. 3, 1972

A Series of Meetings

If the Lord wills, the East Albertville Church will engage in a series of **gospel meetings** beginning on Lord's Day morning, September 17, 1972 and continue each evening at 7:30 o'clock through Saturday, September 23. Brother **Tonis Davis** of Athens, Alabama will do the preaching. He will be preaching to US as well as to others who attend. The **truth** he presents will be appreciated by all who are truly concerned about going to heaven.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED and SINCERELY URGED TO MAKE PLANS TO BE WITH US. There will be congregational singing, fervent prayers and simple preaching, but **NO** nightly collections.

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IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (No. 19)
North Broad brethren to stop supporting **UNSCRIPTURAL PROJECTS** such as “**The Herald of Truth**” and return to “**the old paths**” and “**walk therein.**” Will they do it? It will cause rejoicing in heaven as well as on earth if they do. **Let us all be content to walk in the way of the Lord!**

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

An upright man can never be a downright failure.

It is ours to obey His commands, not to direct His counsels.

The wishbone will never take the place of the backbone.

The man who is not strong against anything is usually not strong for anything.

Dignity is one thing that cannot be preserved in alcohol.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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