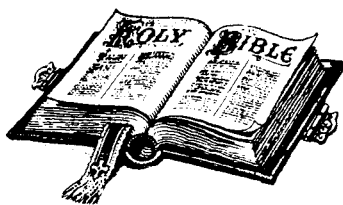


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 23

AUGUST, 1986

Number 8

THE GOSPEL

The term "gospel" means "good news" or "glad tidings"; the good news that salvation has been extended unto mankind. The study at hand concerns "the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1). This, Paul affirms in Romans 1:16, "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . ." He then states in verse 17 that it "is the righteousness of God revealed." There are several passages such as this that teach us the necessity of believing the message of God, (Mark 1:15; Acts 15:7), which is the gospel of God concerning His Son, (Romans 1:1-3), the gospel of the grace of God, (Acts 20:24), the gospel of peace, (Eph. 6:15), the gospel of the kingdom, (Matthew 4:23), and other similar phrases descriptive of its divine nature.

But not only must the preaching of the gospel be believed, numerous other passages teach us the necessity of becoming obedient also. In 1 Peter 4:17 we read, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at the house of God: and if it first begins at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Paul states in Romans 10:16 that not all have obeyed this proclamation of good news; too, notice from Romans 2:16 that it is the gospel that shall judge us in the great day of the Lord. The grace of God excludes works of the old law and works of man's own right-

eousness, (Eph. 2:8-9), but works of obedience are commanded throughout the entire New Testament. (Matthew 7:21 and others). The necessity of OBEDIENCE to the gospel is emphasized in the following passage: "And to you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." (2 Thess. 1:7-9; emph. mine — CS.)

Now, inasmuch as the gospel must be obeyed as well as believed, it becomes necessary to understand more specifically the facts involved in the good news from God. Please consider carefully this quotation from 1 Corinthians 15:1-4: "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for your sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day

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THE INSTRUCTOR

USPS# 581680

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

BANKRUPTCY (No. 2)

VI. IT IS DOUBTFUL — TO SAY THE LEAST!

A. Most people (and probably all true Christians) agree that it is questionable and doubtful for a person to take bankruptcy.

B. Romans 14:14 — “. . . **but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.**”

C. Romans 14:23 — “**And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.**” **Note:** These passages contextually refer to eating meats.

VII. IT SHOWS A LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.

A. 1 Cor. 10:24 — “**Let no man seek his own; but every man another's wealth.**” ASV says: “**Let no man seek his own, but each his neighbor's good.**”

B. Phil. 2:4 — “**Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**”

C. One who files for bankruptcy is not considering the good or welfare of others.

VIII. IT IS A WORK OF THE FLESH!

A. It is **not** a fruit of the Spirit. Cf. Gal. 5:22-23.

B. Cf. Gal. 5:19-21 — “. . . **and such like.**” **Note:** This would certainly include taking bankruptcy.

IX. IT CANNOT BE DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

A. Col. 3:17 — “**And whatsoever ye do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God and the father through him.**”

—**Note:** “**In the name of**” means “**by the authority of.**”

B. Unless Christ has authorized it, it cannot be done **in his name!**

X. IT CANNOT BE DONE BY FAITH! Heb. 11:6; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 10:17.

XI. IT CANNOT BE DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD!

A. 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31.

B. Unless Christ has authorized it, it cannot be done to the glory of God.

XII. WHAT ABOUT A PERSON WHO TAKES BANKRUPTCY, BUT HE SAYS HE IS STILL GOING TO PAY HIS DEBTS?

A. He has been declared legally free of his debts, but he still owes them! Morally he is still obligated to pay his debts!

B. Outwardly and publicly (that is, legally) he says he does **not** owe them, but secretly and privately he says he **does** owe them!

C. I strongly suspect that if he declares openly (to his creditors and the bankruptcy court) that he is still morally obligated to pay his debts, and that he intends to do so, **after** he is declared legally free from them (after he is granted “relief”), he would **not** be granted relief in bankruptcy court.

D. He still owes his debts, so he violates Romans 13:8!

E. He still violates God's law to provide things honest in the sight of all men. Cf. Romans 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21; 1 Thess. 4:11-12.

F. He still violates God's law of love! Cf. Luke 6:31; Mt. 7:12.

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BANKRUPTCY

G. He still destroys his influence for good, truth and righteousness! Cf. Matthew 5:13-16; Col. 4:5; Romans 14:16; 1 Timothy 4:12.

H. He is still a stumblingblock to others! Cf. Romans 14:19; 14:13; 1 Cor. 8:9; 1 Cor. 10:32; Mt. 18:6-7.

I. It is still a work of the flesh! Cf. Gal. 5:19-23.

J. **Therefore:** One cannot take **bankruptcy** and be declared legally free from his debts even though he says he intends to pay them later. In so doing, he would act without authority from Christ, he would act without faith and thus he could not glorify God in so doing!

Conclusion:

1. When a person files for bankruptcy (to be declared legally free of his debts), **he sins!**
2. Let us be sure that we are on guard against this sin — as all others!

Additional notes by editor:

1. Involuntary bankruptcy is brought about when a person's creditors files a petition requesting that he be declared insolvent and thus forces him into bankruptcy.

2. Although sometimes there are circumstances beyond a person's control that may result in indebtedness, a person is responsible for **his actions** which have brought on or contributed to his indebtedness.

3. When we get "legal" **relief** from a debt we rightfully owe, but we tell others we intend to pay it, we are acting hypocritically toward our creditors. We tell them by "legal" means that we are **not** going to pay them, but we tell some other people that we **are** going to pay **all** our debts.

4. We have no right to buy beyond our ability to pay just because some people around us buy those things.

WHY SOME CHRISTIANS DO NOT ADVANCE

A little boy who fell out of bed explained it by saying, "I stayed too close to where I got in."

This is true of a lot of people in the kingdom of God. They stay so close to where they began that growth is never experienced. They want to be fed as babes, not as developing, maturing Christians. They have no desire to go beyond repentance and baptism. They are no more prepared to take a position of leadership now than they were the day they obeyed the gospel.

The writer of Hebrews addresses such persons in the following language: "**For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

"**Therefore leaving the principles [The American Standard Version has it: "leaving the doctrine of the first principles" — E.B.K.] of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection.**" (Hebrews 6:1). We are not to "leave" the first principles in the sense of abandoning them, but rather in the sense of advancing to a higher knowledge, moving upward to a more mature way of life.

Many who are baptized never get very involved in the church and its work. They come into the kingdom but stay right at the door. How easy it is for them to fall back into the ways of the world!

One should be just as eager to learn after baptism as before. He should be just as zealous to obey as a citizen of the kingdom as he was to become a citizen. He was born into the family of God that he might grow as a child of God. He came to Christ that he might live for Christ.

—Irvin Himmel in
THE GRAPHIC EVANGELIST

(Continued from page 1)

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according to the Scriptures." The facts of the gospel, then, are that Christ died, was buried, and rose again. "Unless ye have believed in vain" emphasizes again that the attitude of obedience that we must at all times maintain.

But how can we obey this? Must we, even as did Christ, die physically to rise again? NO! We must obey the form, not the fact: "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:17-18). When were the Romans made free from sin? AFTER OBEYING THE FORM OF DOCTRINE DELIVERED! What is that

"form" that represents the facts of the gospel? Verse 3 and 4 of this same chapter tells us exactly: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." This is the basic meaning when we speak of obedience to the gospel. But what about you, have you been made free from sin?

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16).

—Clint Springer in
THE ABUNDANT LIFE

SUTTON - FROST DEBATE

There will be a public discussion of God's Word September 8, 9, 11 & 12, 1986, at the SOUTH TUSCALOOSA CHURCH BUILDING, 501 37th Street, East (also known as Jug Factory Road), Tuscaloosa, Alabama. **Carrol R. Sutton** and **Jack L. Frost** (a member of the "Corona End Time Tabernacle of True Holiness Church" of Berry, Alabama) will be the disputants. The purpose of water baptism will be the subject. 7:30 p.m. will be the time. All are invited to attend.

For more information, please contact **Bob Smith** at (205) 345-2378 or **Bob Mitchell** at (205) 752-9000.

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

To truly forgive, we must love.

* * * * *

God must have loved the plain people. He made so many of them.

— Abraham Lincoln

* * * * *

There is not enough dirt to bury the truth — and keep it buried!

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