

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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PLEASE COME & STUDY WITH US

Church supported institutions such as missionary, benevolent and edification societies, the sponsoring church arrangement and church supported entertainment, recreation and social activities have alienated thousands of brethren and divided a brotherhood which should be united. We are deeply concerned about this situation.

These issues and practices involve a question of **SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY**. Has **GOD authorized** churches to make donations from their treasuries to human institutions such as a **missionary society, Childhaven, Inc. or David Lipscomb College?** Is there **DIVINE AUTHORITY** for churches to make donations to a **"sponsoring church"** arrangement such as is involved in **The Herald of Truth?** Do churches have **authority from GOD** to arrange and provide the facilities for **entertainment, recreation and social activities?**

The above issues and questions will be discussed in a series of meetings at the building located at 1107 Highway 431 South in Albertville, Alabama on **SEPTEMBER 7-12, 1987 at 7:00 p.m.**

Here is a list of the subjects to be discussed and speakers.

MONDAY, SEPT. 7 — **"Scriptural Authority —Generic and Specific"** by

Carrol R. Sutton; "Co-operation of Churches" by Windell Wiser.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8 — **"Aids and Additions"** by Carroll R. Sutton; **"Objects of Church Relief"** by Windell Wiser.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9 — **"May Churches Donate To 'Christian Schools' and Missionary Societies?"** by Windell Wiser.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 10 — **"How Versus Organization"** by Carrol R. Sutton; **"Individual Action Versus Church Action"** by Hiram Hutto.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 11 — **"Arguments Made In An Effort To Justify Church Supported Institutions"** by Carrol R. Sutton; **"The Church — Recreation, Entertainment and Social Activities"** by Hiram Hutto.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 — **"Neither Be Partaker of Other Men's Sins"** by Windell Wiser.

We invite and urge you to come, bring your Bibles and study these vital topics with us. **Questions will be welcomed!**

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

THE PLEASURE (or Delight) OF THE LORD

(CONCLUDED)

In our previous study we showed from the Scriptures that men can delight or take pleasure in **sin**, but God **cannot**. (Cf. Hebrews 11:24-26; James 1:13-15). We also showed six things in which God has no pleasure or delight. They were as follows:

1. FOOLS!
2. PHYSICAL STRENGTH!
3. BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES IN DISOBEDIENCE!
4. WICKEDNESS!
5. THE DEATH OF THE WICKED!
6. THOSE WHO DRAW BACK!

We also showed that men should **never** take pleasure or delight in those things in which God has **no** pleasure or delight.

Let us now consider some things in which God **does** have pleasure or delight.

1. A JUST WEIGHT! A question is raised in Micah 6:11. It is: "**Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances, and with the bag of deceitful weights?**" The answer to the question is obvious. Solomon said: "**A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work,**" (Prov. 16:11) and "A

false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight." (Prov. 11:1).

In Luke 6:38 Jesus said: "**Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.**"

Wicked balances or unjust weights are deceitful. Deceit is evil. (Cf. Mark 7:20-23). The fear of the Lord is to hate evil. (Cf. Prov. 8:13)

Giving less than a pound for a pound; less than a yard for a yard; less than a gallon for a gallon, less than a bushel for a bushel, padding an invoice, etc. is deceitful and unjust. It is evil! God hates evil!

REMEMBER: God delights in a just weight!

2. **THOSE WHO DEAL TRULY (OR FAITHFULLY)!** Solomon tells us that "**Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.**" (Prov. 12:22). He also tells us that "**They that are of a froward (stubborn — CRS) heart are abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.**" (Prov. 11:20).

If we are dealing faithfully we will not lie. (Cf. Prov. 14:5). Neither will we answer a matter before we get the facts in the case. (Cf. Prov. 18:13).

If a person deals unfaithfully because he is greedy of gain or for some other reason, he is still an abomination to the Lord. If a person is greedy of gain he will trouble his house. (Cf. Prov. 15:27)

A buyer who deals truly (or faithfully) will not say, "**It is naught, it is naught,**" and when he has gone his way he will **not** boast. (Cf. Prov. 14:20). We must deal **faithfully** in all matters including dealing with "**church problems**", buying or selling a car, land, insurance, a cow, a house or anything else. We must also deal **faithfully** with God's Word!

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REMEMBER: God delights in those who deal truly!

3. **THE PRAYER OF THE UPRIGHT!** Solomon tells us that “**The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord; but the prayer of the upright is his delight.**” (Prov. 15:8). “**The Lord is far from wicked: But he heareth the prayer of the righteous.**” (Prov. 15:29). Solomon also declared that “**He that turneth away his ears from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**” (Prov. 28:9).

We learn from 1 Peter 3:12 that “**The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.**” James tells us that “. . . the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” (James 5:16).

Prayer is a wonderful privilege as well as an obligation of the children of God. We should thank God for it. We should “**pray without ceasing.**” (1 Thess. 5:17). Our prayers should be “**in faith.**” (James 1:5-6). We should “**keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight**” so we can receive of him whatsoever we ask. (1 John 3:22).

REMEMBER: God delights in the prayer of the upright!

4. **HIS PEOPLE! THOSE WHO FEAR HIM AND HOPE IN HIS MERCY!** A long time ago the Psalmist said: “**For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: He will beautify the meek with salvation.**” (Psalms 149:4), and “**The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy.**” (Psalms 149:11). Those who fear him and hope in his mercy are his people.

God does **not** take pleasure in fools or in others who practice wickedness, but He **does** take pleasure in those who **fear him**. The following passages should impress upon all of us the need of **fearing God**.

(1) Proverbs 1:7 — “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**”

(2) Proverbs 9:10 — “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.**”

(3) Proverbs 14:26 — “**In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge.**”

(4) Proverbs 14:27 — “**The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.**”

(5) Proverbs 15:16 — “**Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.**”

(6) Proverbs 16:6 — “**By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.**”

(7) Proverbs 8:13 — “**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: . . .**”

(8) Proverbs 10:27 — “**The fear of the Lord longeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.**”

(9) Psalms 89:7 — “**God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.**”

(10) 1 Peter 2:17 — “. . . **Fear God** . . .”

Surely all of us should “**fear God and keep His commandments.**”

REMEMBER: God takes pleasure in His people! He takes pleasure in those who fear Him!

5. **THE DEATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS!** Although there is no specific statement that says “God has pleasure or delight in the death of the righteous”, the evidence in God’s Word indicates that He **does**. Here is some of the evidence:

(1) It may be implied in the statement, “**As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked: but that the wicked turn from his way and live: . . .**” (Ezek. 33:11). **NOTE: God does not**

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have pleasure in the death of the wicked. Is this suggesting that God does have pleasure in the death of the righteous?

(2)Psalms 116:15 says: "**Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.**" NOTE: Obviously God delights in that which is precious.

We should desire to die the death of the righteous. The sentiment expressed by Balaam to Balak in Numbers 23:10 should be ours. Balaam said: "... **Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.**" The righteous has hope in his death. (See Proverbs 14:32).

The dead who die in the Lord are "blessed." (Cf. Rev. 14:13). In order to die **in** the Lord one must first get **into** the Lord. Please read and study carefully Ephesians 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:10; Galatians 3:26-27; Mark 16:15-16 and Acts 2:36-41.

Does the Lord have pleasure in you? Do you cause Him delight? Or do you cause him displeasure and anger?

(CRS)

TRUTH IS INDISPENSABLE

"One thing that is absolutely indispensable to the practice of pure religion is truth. "**Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.**" (Prov. 23:23). Whatever truth may cost — time, money, lands and houses, physical suffering — it is worth the price; and once obtained, it must not be sold for any sum. It matters little what we think, feel, imagine, suppose, or would like to believe; the **truth** is what counts. Jesus said, "**Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" (John 8:32). Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, bold and convincing. But Apollos lacked the one thing which all must have to be successful in preaching; he lacked the **whole** truth. (Acts 18:24-28). Eloquence is not necessary if one has the truth; other things may be helpful but no essential. To disregard neglect, or deny truth is to dispense with the indispensable."

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

It is much harder to stamp out half a truth than a whole lie.

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Although a rumor has no legs it travels very fast.

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You can't win respect by demanding it.

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