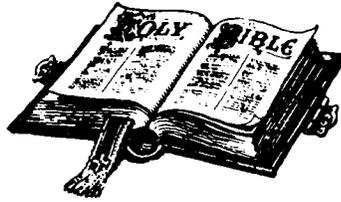


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 26

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SUTTON-MERIDETH DEBATE

A series of public discussions has been scheduled to be conducted September 4, 5, 7 & 8, 1989 on the "benevolent organizations" question.

The disputants in this debate will be **J. Noel Merideth** of Lawrenceburg, TN and **Carroll R. Sutton** of Albertville, AL.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, September 4th and 5th, **Sutton** will affirm that "The Scriptures teach that Churches of Christ may NOT build and maintain benevolent organizations such as BOLES ORPHAN HOME, TENNESSEE ORPHAN HOME, CHILDHAVEN and HOME FOR THE AGED for the care of the needy." This proposition will be denied by **Merideth**.

On September 4th and 5th the debate will be conducted in the building of the **32nd Street Church of Christ** located at **1028 North 32nd Street** in PUDUCAH, KENTUCKY.

On Thursday and Friday evenings, September 7th and 8th, **Merideth** will affirm that "The Scriptures teach that Churches of Christ may build and maintain benevolent organizations such

as BOLES ORPHAN HOME, TENNESSEE ORPHAN HOME, CHILDHAVEN and HOME FOR THE AGED for the care of the needy." This proposition will be denied by **Sutton**.

On September 7th and 8th the debate will be conducted in the building of the **Highway 45 Church of Christ** located on **Highway 45** in METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS.

Each speaker will have one thirty, one twenty and one ten minute speech in each session.

Each speaker may ask the other up to (but not to exceed) five written questions each session. These questions are to be given to the speaker at least ten minutes before the session begins. The questions must be read (publicly) by the person asking them before the other speaker has an obligation to deal with them.

For further information concerning the debate, housing and motel accommodations, etc. you may contact **RAY MADRIGAL**, 32nd Street Church of Christ, 1028 N. 32nd Street, Paducah, KY 42001 (Phone 502/554-7539) or **EDDIE RICHARDSON** at 502/554-7502 or **CHARLES WEBB** at 502/898-3931.

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CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

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Editorial . . .

MASONRY

(Concluded)

As we continue our study on MASONRY we would like to give additional reasons **Why a Christian Cannot Be A Mason.**

XVII. MASONRY TEACHES THAT THE RELIGIOUS FAITH IT TEACHES IS INDISPENSABLE. We read on page 196 of **Morals and Dogma** by Albert Pike: "The religious faith thus taught by Masonry is indispensable to the attainment of the great ends of life; and must therefore have been designed to be a part of it. We are made for this faith; and there must be something, somewhere, for us to believe in . . . If we could cut off from any soul all the principles taught by Masonry, the faith in a God, in immortality, in virtue, in essential rectitude, that soul would sink into sin, misery, darkness, and ruin. If we could cut off all sense of these truths, the man would sink at once to the grade of the animal."

God's Word teaches there is "ONE faith" and "IN Christ" Christians are complete. See Eph. 4:4-6; Col. 2:10 & Jude 3.

XVIII. MASONRY SAYS IT DOES NOT CONDEMN ANY RELIGION. In **Morals And Dogma** on page 333

we read: "Urge them (other Masons - CRS) . . . To respect all forms of worship, to tolerate all political and religious opinions; not to blame, and still less to condemn the religion of others: not to seek to make converts but to be content if they have the religion of Societies; a veneration for the Creator, the religion of good works, and grateful acknowledgement of God's blessings: . . ." We also read on page 524: ". . . We do not tell the Moslem that it is only important for him to believe there is but one God, and wholly unessential whether Mohamet was His prophet. We do not tell the Hebrew that the Messiah whom he expects was born in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago; and that he is a heretic because he will not so believe. And as little do we tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us, or His history but the unreal revival of an older legend. To do either is beyond our jurisdiction. Masonry, of no one age, belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds its great truths in all."

A study of the following Scriptures should teach us that we should condemn false doctrines and systems. Matthew 15:7-9; Mark 7:1-15; Jude 3; Gal. 1:5-9; Titus 1:9-16; Eph. 5:10-12 and Matthew 15:13.

XIX. MASONRY IS DECEPTIVE. On page 819 of **Morals And Dogma** we read: "The Blue Degrees are but the outer court or portico of the Temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he should understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explanation is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of

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MASONRY

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Masonry . . . It is well enough for the mass of those called Masons, to imagine that all is contained in the Blue degrees; and whose attempts to deceive them will labor in vain, and without any true reward violate his obligations as an Adept. . .”

We are warned in the Scriptures about deceivers and deceit. See Mark 7:20-23; Eph. 5:6; Col. 2:4,8; Eph. 4:14-15; 1 John 3:7; 2 Tim. 3:13; Mt. 7:13-16; 2 Thess. 2:8-12; Rev. 20:10 and Rev. 21:8.

XX. MASONRY ACCUSES THE BIBLE OF BEING FASE. On page 224 of **Morals and Dogma** we read: **“The doctrines of the Bible are often not clothed in the language of strict truth, but in that which was to convey to a rude and ignorant people the practical essentials of the doctrine. A perfectly pure faith, free from all extraneous admixtures, a system of noble theism and lofty morality, would find too little preparation for it is in the common mind and heart, to admit of prompt reception by the masses of mankind; and truth might not have reached us, if it had not borrowed the wings of error.”** The **Kentucky Monitor** says: **“Man, according to ancient tradition, was originally one of the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Light, and the home story of our first parents, notwithstanding the later Garden of Eden story, was among the stars . . .”** (p. xvii)

The Scriptures claim to be God’s revelation to man. See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; James 1:21, 25; 2:12; Eph. 3:2-6; 1 Cor. 2:9-16; Romans 15:4 and Heb. 1:1-3.

WE SHOULD REJECT MASONRY BECAUSE:

1. Masonry cannot be practiced in the name of (i.e. by the authority of) Jesus Christ. (See Col. 3:17).

2. Masonry is no part of **“the faith”** which was once delivered to the saints. (See Jude 3).

3. Masonic worship is **in vain** because Masonry teaches for doctrine the com-

mandments of men. (See Mt. 15:1-9).

4. Masonry cannot be practiced by **faith**. (See (Rom. 10:17.)

5. Masonry does **not** honor God nor His Son. (See John 5:22-23).

6. Masonry is **not** a **good work**. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

7. Masonry is outside the doctrine of Christ and those who practice such do **not** have God. (See 2 John 9).

8. Masonry does **not** pertain unto life and godliness. (See 2 Pet. 1:3).

9. Masonry is **no** part of **“all truth”** in which the apostles were guided. (See John 16:13).

10. Masonry claims to be the Kingdom of Light but in reality is a part of the Kingdom of Darkness. (See Col. 1:13-14; John 3:16-21)

11. Masonry promises eternal life in the **“Celestial Lodge above”** to **many** who openly deny and reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God. (See John 14:6; Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 10:32-33).

12. Masonry is a plant that is destined to be **“rooted up.”** (See Mt. 15:13).

The apostle Paul said: **“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”** (Eph. 5:12) (CRS)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

(Continued from page 4)

9. If Christians observe **“Pentecost Sunday”**, their worship is **VAIN** because they would be teaching for doctrine the commandment of men! (See Matthew 15:1-13).

10. Paul said to the Galatians: **“Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed up you labor in vain.”** (Gal. 4:10-11)

NO, it is **NOT** **“good, right and Scriptural to observe ‘Pentecost Sunday’”**. Neither is it good, right and Scriptural **“to observe ‘Christmas’** as the **birthday** of Jesus Christ or to observe **“Easter”** as the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ! **NOTE:** Please apply the above principles to **“Christmas”** and **“Easter.”** (CRS)

PENTECOST SUNDAY

There are some religious people who have set aside a day for the observance of the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. They call that day they have set aside "**Pentecost Sunday.**" They think that "**it is good, right and Scriptural to observe 'Pentecost Sunday.'**" Is it "**good, right and Scriptural**" to observe "**Pentecost Sunday?**" Let us consider the following facts.

1. There is **NO DIVINE PRECEPT** (command or statement) for Christians to observe "**Pentecost Sunday.**"

2. There is **NO NECESSARY IMPLICATION** in the Scriptures that Christians ever did or that they should or may observe "**Pentecost Sunday.**"

3. There is **NO DIVINELY APPROVED EXAMPLE** of Christians ever observing "**Pentecost Sunday.**"

4. Christians cannot observe "**Pentecost Sunday**" **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS**, i.e., "**by His**

authority," since He has **NOT authorized such!** (See Col. 3:17).

5. Christians cannot **SPEAK AS THE ORACLES OF GOD** as 1 Peter 4:11 teaches and observe "**Pentecost Sunday**" since it is **NOT authorized in God's Word!**

6. Christians cannot **ABIDE IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST** as 2 John 9 teaches and observe "**Pentecost Sunday**" since it is **NOT taught in the doctrine of Christ.**

7. Christians cannot **WALK BY FAITH** as 2 Cor. 5:7 teaches we should and observe "**Pentecost Sunday**" since it is **NOT authorized in God's Word!**

8. Christians cannot **GLORIFY GOD** as 1 Cor. 10:31 teaches we should and observe "**Pentecost Sunday**" since it is **NOT authorized in God's Word!**

(Continued on page 3)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

We should praise self **LESS** and God **MORE**.

* * * * *

God may use the spade of sorrow to dig a well of joy.

* * * * *

Never choose your friends by what they **have** but by what they **are**.

* * * * *

Truth has been given to believe, to practice and to teach others.

* * * * *

We should be looking at things that are not seen — because they are eternal.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South

Albertville, Alabama 35950