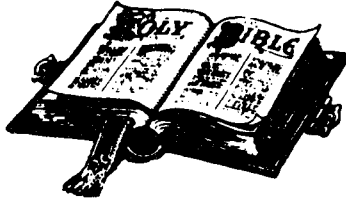


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 31

AUGUST, 1994

Number 8

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED!

There are various "callings" in life. They come from various sources and may involve secular or physical things. However, in this study we are concerned about the "calling of God." GOD calls us! (Cf. Acts 2:36-39). Our study will center around this calling.

I. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED WITH A HIGH CALLING! (Read Phil. 3:13-14). This calling is from "up" or "above!" It comes from One in a "high" or "great place." It comes from One who is "high" and "great." (See Heb. 10:21; Psa. 113:5; Heb. 4:14-15 & Gen. 14:18).

II. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED WITH AN HOLY CALLING! (Read 2 Tim. 1:9). This calling comes from One who is holy and its enjoins upon us the responsibility to be holy! (See John 17:1 & 1 Peter 1:13-16).

III. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED WITH A HEAVENLY CALLING! (Read Heb. 3:1). This calling is from heaven to us to come to heaven! We should "seek those things which are above!" We should set our affection "on

things above!" (See Col. 3:1-2).

IV. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED OUT OF DARKNESS INTO LIGHT! (Read 1 Peter 2:9). Paul declared: ". . . We are not of the night, nor of the darkness." (1 Thess. 5:5). We are "the children of light!" We are "the light of the world!" We should "walk in the light" and let our light shine! (See 1 John 1:7 & Mt. 5:14-16).

V. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED TO BE SAINTS! (Read 1 Cor. 1:2. Saints have an inheritance! (See Col. 1:12 & 1 Peter 1:4). NOTE: A saint is "one set apart to be, as it were, exclusively God's." We should act like saints!

VI. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED WITH A VOCATION (WAY OF LIFE)! (Read Eph. 4:1-3) We have a new way of life! We think, talk, dress and act differently! We allow Jesus Christ to be Lord in our lives!

VII. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED UNTO (INTO) THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRIST! (Read 1 Cor. 1:9). This calling
(Continued on page 4)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE. . . ?

(No. 2)

In studying the question, "**Why do you believe what you do?**," we should keep in mind that **what** we believe and **why** we believe it are both important. We should "**be ready always to give an answer**" to those who ask concerning our hope. We should be **prepared and willing** to give an answer. In our previous study we asked: **Do you believe what you do because the majority believes it?** Let us continue our study.

II. DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO BECAUSE OF YOUR FEELINGS? There are many people who allow their **emotions** to be the standard by which they determine what they believe. If they "**feel**" that a certain thing is right they accept it. If not, they reject it. Some will say, "I know I am saved because I **feel** like I am," or "I wouldn't trade what I **feel** for a stack of Bibles a mile high," or "I just **feel** like it is right," etc.

Jacob "**mourned for his son** (Joseph) **many days**" and "**refused to be comforted**" and said "**I will go down into the grave of my son mourning**" because he really "**felt** like" his son Joseph was dead! However, twenty or so years later Jacob found his son Joseph alive in Egypt! His "**belief**" that Joseph was dead caused him to "**feel**" sorrowful.

(Cf. Gen. 37:23-35).

Our "**feelings**" are **not** the standard by which we must live and by which we will be judged in the last day! Jeremiah 17:9 says: "**The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**" Solomon warned: "**He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: . . .**" (Proverbs 28:26). Hear Solomon again: "**There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**" (Proverbs 16:25). A way is **not** right merely because "it seems right!"

No doubt, Saul of Tarsus "**felt** like" he was serving God when he beat and imprisoned Christians and when he "**consented**" to the death of Stephen and "**kept the raiment of them that slew him.**" (See Acts 22:19-20). Later he declared: "**I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: . . .**" (Acts 26:9-10).

One cannot **know** that he is saved because he "**feels**" like he is! However, one can know that he is "**saved**" by what is written in God's Word. John said: "**These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.**" (1 John 5:13). We can know by what is written that we have eternal life! No, we cannot **know** by our "**feelings**!"

Teeming millions of people believe and practice **false** doctrines because they "**feel** like" they are right! What about you? **Do you believe what you do because of your feelings?** You cannot trust your "**feelings**" to be a proper **standard** as to what is **right**. You must allow the **Word of God** to be your **standard**! If you would please God, you must believe

(Continued on page 3)

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

(Continued from page 2)

what you do **because** it is what **God's Book teaches!** Do you?

III. DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO BECAUSE OF TRADITIONS?

Some people believe what they do because they have been taught human traditions. They have been taught doctrines and commandments of men. They do not question what they have been taught, but blindly accept it. In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus said: "**Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.**" (Mt. 15:7-9). Jesus also said: "**For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such things ye do.**" (Mark 7:8). He also said: "**Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**" (Verse 9). Traditions of men make void the Word of God!

Prior to his becoming a disciple of Christ, Saul was "**zealous of the traditions**" of his fathers. During that time he "**persecuted the church of God, and wasted it.**" (See Gal. 1:13-14). Later he exhorted: "**Not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.**" (Titus 1:14). In Col. 2:8 Paul warned: "**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**" (Col. 2:8).

Peter mentions the fact that those to whom he addressed his first epistle had received their prior **vain conversation** by **tradition** from their fathers. (Cf. 1 Pet. 1:18).

The following is a list of some of the

teachings which originated by the wisdom of men and have been passed on to others. These things are often accepted without question because they are "traditionally" handed down.

1. "**Salvation is by faith ONLY!**"
2. "**There is nothing in a name.**"
3. "**One can be saved by praying through.**"

4. "**It does not matter how one worships God as long as he is sincere!**"

5. "**Sprinkling is baptism!**"

6. "**Once saved, always saved!**"

7. "**One church is just as good as another!**"

8. "**Baptism is not essential to salvation!**"

9. "**A church cannot withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church!**"

10. "**Churches may Scripturally donate funds out of their treasuries to human institutions such as Childhaven, Inc., David Lipscomb College, etc.**"

11. "**We are not under any system of law!**"

12. "**A church cannot withhold or withdraw fellowship from a person who is not a member of that local church!**"

Many people will "swallow" the above teachings "hook, line and sinker" although **none** of the above things are taught in the Scriptures!

Some churches use mechanical instruments of music in worship, celebrate Christmas and Easter and have church pageants, etc. because of traditions.

Paul warned: "**Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**" (Col. 2:8).

Do you believe what you do because of your "**feelings?**" Traditions of men? You should not!

(To be continued) (CRS)

CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED

(Continued from page 1)

involves fellowship with Christ in **work** and in **suffering!** (See Tit. 2:14; 1 Cor. 15:58; Phil. 3:10; 1 Pet. 4:13-16; 1 John 1:7).

VIII. CHRISTIANS ARE CALLED UNTO HOPE! (Read Eph. 4:4). Also see Rom 15:4; 8:24; 5:2-5; 6:19; 12:12; 7:19; Tit. 1:2; 2:7 & 1 John 3:3.

We did **not** receive a mysterious, direct, miraculous calling! We were **called by the gospel!** It is available to all! (Read 2 Thess. 2:14; Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:15-16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). When God calls, we must answer! We can say **yes** (accept) or **no** (reject)!

(CRS)

NOTE: If we do not already have it, please send us your "911" number.

Thanks!

GOSPEL MEETINGS

The following preachers will be preaching in a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS at EAST ALBERTVILLE beginning on Lord's Day morning **August 21 and continuing through Friday evening August 26, 1994 at 7:30 p.m.** except on the Lord's Day when we will meet at 9:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Sunday AM - **David Brown** of Mableton, GA

Sunday PM **Pat Donahue** of Harvest, AL

Monday - **Johnny Stringer** of Rogersville, AL

Tuesday - **Johnny Felker** of Killen, AL

Wednesday - **Bill Walton** of Hixon, TN

Thursday - **Rex Hadley** of Birmingham, AL

Friday - **Buddy Parker** of Pinson, AL

Make plans to be with us and tell others!

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Stretching the truth will ruin it.

* * * * *

We should always remember that cutting remarks have a way of leaving scars.

* * * * *

Be bold for what you stand for, but be careful what you fall for.

* * * * *

Nothing will stir up more mud than a groundless rumor.

* * * * *

They can conquer who believe they can. **Virgil**

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