

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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THE WORD

The authority in the religion of Christ is the word of Christ. Paul wrote. "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." (1 Cor. 14:37). By the word "commandments", the apostle shows that the word he wrote was authoritative. The phrase, "of the Lord", denotes supreme authority. The authority of the New Testament is emphasized when we remember it grants unto us "all things that pertain unto life and godliness." (2 Pet. 1:3). Realizing the New Testament is authoritative, faithful children of God have always pleaded with people to unite upon God's Word.

Another fact I want us to notice is that one must respect the SILENCE of the will of Christ. One must abide (stay or remain) in the doctrine of Christ, and the way that is done is to remain silent where the Bible is silent. John declared, "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9-10). When one sees "no harm" in going beyond the doctrine of Christ in matters of religion he is showing a lack of respect for God's Word. The statement of the apostles on circumcision points out the necessity of respecting the silence of the Scriptures. "We gave no such commandment," declares the apostles

of Christ. Circumcision was not bound upon the Gentiles, and the simple reason given by the apostles was "no such commandment." The silence of the New Testament is to be respected.

Can you show that your religious actions are authorized in the Scriptures, or do you use the lame excuse, "the Bible does not say not to"? Read 2 John 9 again.

—R. H. Bunting in Bloomington, Ind., bulletin.

WHAT ARE YOU GIVING?

Jesus gave His head for a crown of thorns. He gave his back to the cruel lash. He gave His face to rude human spittle. He gave His shoulders to carry the cross. He gave His hands for you and me. He gave His blood for the remission of sins. His Spirit He gave to God.

What are you giving? Your hands to the work? Your love to the lost? Your finances to carry on Christ's work?

Some day Christ will ask what you gave. What you are giving now will determine your answer. — Selected.

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Editorial . . .

Christ – The Stone

Jesus Christ is spoken of under many figures throughout the New Testament. For example, He is spoken of as being a Lamb, a Lion, a door, a vine, bread, etc.

In Acts 4:11 the apostle Peter was referring to Jesus Christ when he said: "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner." In this text, Christ is spoken of as being "the stone."

No doubt, He is called a stone because of the stone-like qualities He possesses. He is strong, sturdy, constant and durable. Thus He is well qualified and suitable to serve as a foundation. In 1 Cor. 3:11 we read, "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." We further learn from Eph. 2:20 that Jesus Christ himself is "the chief corner stone."

CHRIST — THE REJECTED STONE

There is a prophetic statement in Psalms 118:22 concerning the rejection of Jesus Christ by the rulers and elders of Israel. Let us now read it: "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." Unquestionably, Jesus referred to this prophecy when He spake in Matt. 21:42 and said, "Did ye never read in the Scriptures, the stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: . . ." Reference is also made by Peter in 1 Peter 2:7 to "the stone

which the builders disallowed."

Jesus came unto His own but they received Him not. (See John 1:11). They rejected His Word (John 8:37, 45-47), His reign (Luke 19:11-27), His protection (Matt. 23:37), and eternal life He offered (John 5:40). They were not content with merely rejecting Him, but they also put Him to death. They **SPURNED THE MESSAGE** and **MURDERED THE MESSENGER!** Obviously Jesus Christ is the stone which was set at nought of the builders!

CHRIST — THE CHOSEN STONE

Although Jesus the Stone was rejected by the builders, He became the "head of the corner." The blunder of the builders did not hinder the plan of the Almighty! In Isaiah 28:16 we read, "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste." This prophecy was penned several hundred years before Jesus Christ was born. Sometime after the birth, the death, the resurrection and the ascension of Christ, the apostle Peter quoted Isaiah's prophecy and showed its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He stated that Jesus was "disallowed indeed of men, but **CHOS-EN OF GOD**, and precious." (See 1 Peter 2:3-8).

CHRIST — THE STONE OF HOPE

After suggesting that Christ is the stone which was rejected by the builders, Peter said further, "Neither is there salvation in any other." (See Acts 4:11-12). Certainly there is **HOPE** in Jesus Christ because He has the Words of eternal life. (See John 6:68). There is none other to whom we may go for salvation. One must believe with all of his heart that Jesus is the Son of God in order to receive life everlasting. (See John 20:30-31; Acts 8:37). Repentance is required of all men who will be saved. (See Acts 17:30-31; Luke 13:3). One's faith must be confessed with his mouth.

(Continued on page 3)

Disagreeing With The Preacher

In recent years more emphasis has been placed on the individual's studying the Scriptures for himself instead of taking what the preacher says as the final authority. Undoubtedly, if this had been practiced through the years, the critical state of affairs now prevalent the churches of Christ would have been avoided. As a preacher, we have exerted all the energy we possess to encourage individual study of the Word of God and urged every person to make up his own mind as to what is right or wrong on every issue, based on what the Bible teaches and not on what any man says. We shall continue to do this as a matter of faith and principle. It is not now, nor has it ever been, our wish to have others accept what we say because we said it.

Notwithstanding the safety and correctness of the above-stated principle, we believe there is a dangerous extreme people may come to because of the freedom they sense in regard to the right of individual investigation as opposed to accepting all that may come from the pulpit. This is particularly true of those who are novices in the Word of God; those who are not given to a great deal of study and those who seek to justify themselves.

When one hears preaching on some theme or point that does not suit his fancy, it is quite easy to say, "I disagree with Bro. Blank on that." To speak in this glib fashion under the guise of exercising one's right to study for himself is in no sense right. When one hears a proclaimer of the gospel utter that which the hearer believes to be contrary to the divine oracles it becomes the hearer's solemn obligation to point out to the preacher wherein the latter deviated from the truth. Until the hearer is able thus to do, he has no right to disagree. Those who preach the word not only have the responsibility of speaking as the oracles of God (1 Peter 4:11), but those who hear have the re-

sponsibility of accepting it as the Word of God. (1 Thess. 2:13). For one who has itching ears (2 Tim. 4:3) to say "I disagree" because the word of the message did not soothe his or her itching sensation is far-removed from the exercise of the right of private study.

—George T. Jones, GOSPEL GUARDIAN.

SPECIAL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A college professor was teaching a class on young people's morals. He knew the necessity of impressing his lesson on the mind of each individual student.

The next morning before class the professor bought two dozen of the most beautiful roses he could find. There would be one for each boy, with one left over. He picked the very prettiest rose out of the bunch and passed it to every student letting him smell of it and handle it. Then he took it and fluffed it up in his hands. He then put the handled rose back in the bouquet. He passed the bouquet around and let every boy take the rose he wanted.

In the end, the handled, misused rose was left.

A boy may go out with a girl that's misused, but in the end he always desires to pick the one that is pure for his wife.

—Selected via "Gospel Digest".

(Continued from page 2)

CHRIST — THE STONE

(See Rom. 10:9-10). Baptism (which is a burial in water and a resurrection therefrom—Rom. 6:3-5) is also essential to the remission of past sins. (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). Faithfulness is required of a child of God in order for him to be saved eternally. (See Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 4:2; 2 Pet. 1:5-14).

Christ is the Stone of hope to all those who sincerely respect, believe and obey His precious Will!

What is Christ to you? A Stone of rejection or a Stone of hope?

(CRS)

WE CAN HAVE UNITY

I took a package to the post office at Murfreesboro and had the clerk weigh it. He consulted his map to find the zone to which it was going. He turned to his guidebook and told me the amount of the postage. I took the same package to our neighboring town of Woodbury and went into the post office. The clerk gave me the amount of the postage — and it was the same. This same package I then took to a little country post office in the back of a store in one of our rural districts. There the post master weighed it. With some degree of slowness — for he was an uneducated man — he consulted his pos-

al rate book and came up with the same answer. These postal employees had not met in convention and decided to charge me a certain amount for the mailing of this package. They probably did not know one another. **THEY ALL HAD ONE OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK AND WENT BY IT.** They had unity. As long as men insist on using their own creeds and opinions in religion, we will have division. **WHEN WE ARE WILLING TO USE THE OFFICIAL GUIDE BOOK — THE BIBLE — WE WILL HAVE UNITY.**

—George DeHoff, "Texas Bible Banner".

Sentence Sermons

If a man's conscience is as comfortable as his mattress, he should have no trouble getting a good night's sleep.

A hypocrite is a person who is not himself on Sundays.

One should never be ashamed to own he has been wrong, which is but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

The world divides people horizontally (upper and lower class). But God divides them vertically (to the right and to the left).

Clean living takes a lot more than soap and detergents.

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