

# 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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## **"DO LIKE HE DONE"**

A major business concern, according to a newspaper columnist received the following letter from one of its salesmen. Apparently the salesman was almost illiterate, but his letter does rather well. It read:

"Dear Boss, I see this outfit which ain't never bought a dime's worth of nuthing from us and I sole them a couple hundred thousand dollars worth of guds. I am now going to Chawgo."

Twodayslaterasecondletterarrived:

"I cum here and sole them half a milyon."

Both letters were posted on the bulletin board with a note appended by the company's president.

"We ben spendin too much time trying to spel instead of trying to sel. I want evrybody should reed these letters from Gooch — he is on the rode doin a grate job for us. You should go out and do like he done." (adapted from TRUTH BEARER)

The lesson for us is rather obvious. We constantly try to think of new methods and ways of saving souls. Gimmicks are tried and great, ballyhooed programs are launched in the name of Christ. We organize and organize, establish a few institutions for the purpose of facilitating the work we want to do, and then fall in love with the machinery we have created. We sometimes forget our very purpose. Many spend their waking hours greasing and trying to enlarge the machinery. A few Gooches are worth more to the cause of Christ than all the organizations of human genius and pride. None of the "world in a day" for Christ promotions are as valuable as a single Gooch. "Go out and do like he done."

— Jere Frost in LIBERTY ROAD LIGHTHOUSE, May 6, 1977

PSALM 92:5 — "O Lord, how great are thy works, and thy thoughts are very deep."

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### Editorial . . .

## GRACE—SOME FACTS

Although many theories abound about **grace** it is possible for us to know some **facts** about **grace**. In order to obtain the facts it is essential that we go to the Scriptures which have been given by **inspiration** of God. Let us do just that.

Here are some facts about grace:

### 1. GRACE CAME BY JESUS CHRIST!

John 1:17 says: "**For the law was given by Moses, but truth and grace came by Jesus Christ.**" NOTE: Not by Mohammed, the Pope, John Calvin or Joseph Smith!

2. BY GRACE JESUS TASTED DEATH FOR EVERY MAN! Hebrews 2:9 says: "**But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.**" NOTE: Not only for the "elect," but also for the "non-elect."

3. GRACE IS GIVEN US BY JESUS CHRIST! To saints the apostle Paul said: "**I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ.**"

(1 Cor. 1:4-5). Please read and consider Ephesians 3:2 also. NOTE: Grace is not borrowed but it is given us!

4. WE ARE UNDER GRACE! Romans 6:14-15 says: "**For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**" NOTE: In contrast to being under the law, it is clearly stated that we are under grace!

5. WE ARE CALLED INTO GRACE! To the Christians at Galatia the apostle Paul wrote: "**I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel.**" (Gal. 1:6). NOTE: If the Galatians were removed unto another gospel they were not still in the grace of Christ.

6. GRACE BRINGS SALVATION AND TEACHES US! Titus 2:11-12 says: "**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.**" NOTE: (1) Grace brings salvation. (2) Grace has appeared to all men, and (3) Grace teaches. (4) We should not expect to receive the salvation that grace brings unless we accept the teaching that grace gives.

7. GRACE ABOUND AND REIGNS THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS! Romans 5:20-21 says: "**... But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.**" NOTE: We should not expect grace to reign through wickedness. Grace abounds! There is adequate grace for all! However, it does not reign unconditionally. It reigns through righteousness!

8. JUSTIFICATION IS BY GRACE! By inspiration Paul said: "**Being justified freely by his grace**

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## GRACE — SOME FACTS

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through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,” and “That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7). NOTE: These passages clearly state that justification is by grace. We may learn from other Scriptures that we are justified by other things.

9. WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE! To saints Paul wrote, “... by grace ye are saved . . .” and “For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Eph. 2:5, 8-9). NOTE: Without doubt, salvation is by grace! Without grace there is no salvation! However, we must not get so excited that we ignore other Scriptures that teach us that we are saved by other things. Those (without or within) who teach that we are saved by grace only are false teachers and are not worthy to be called “gospel preachers.”

10. WE ARE TO RECEIVE GRACE BUT NOT IN VAIN! In writing to saints, Paul said: “We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.” (2 Cor. 6:1). NOTE: This statement teaches that we are to receive God’s grace and it certainly implies the possibility of a person receiving the grace of God in vain. We should not, but it is possible. In fact, we choose to receive God’s grace properly and thus for our welfare or we may choose to receive it in vain.

11. WE ARE TO STAND IN THE GRACE OF GOD! To Christians the apostle Peter said: “By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.” (1 Pet. 5:12). NOTE: We have the responsibility to stand in the grace of God!

12. WE ARE TO CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD! While in Antioch in Pisidia “. . . many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who

speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.” (Acts 13:43). NOTE: Surely we have the responsibility to continue in the grace of God!

13. IT IS POSSIBLE TO FRUSTRATE THE GRACE OF GOD! The fact that Paul the apostle declared, “I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. 2:21) certainly indicates the possibility of God’s grace being frustrated. NOTE: Yes, it is possible for one to nullify, make void or set aside the grace of God. We should exercise caution lest we do just that. Some who talk a lot about grace may be nullifying grace by ignoring what grace teaches.

14. IT IS POSSIBLE TO TURN THE GRACE OF GOD INTO LASCIVIOUSNESS! Jude 4 says: “For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” NOTE: When a person perverts the teaching of grace so as to “justify” God’s people (and others) as they engage in base and licentious acts (including adultery and lascivious dress) they are guilty of turning the grace of God into lasciviousness.

15. IT IS POSSIBLE TO FAIL OF (or FALL FROM) THE GRACE OF GOD! In exhorting Christians the Hebrew writer said: “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.” (Hebrews 12:14-15). In speaking to Christians in Galatia Paul said: “Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law: ye are fallen from grace.” (Gal. 5:4).

Any theory that sets aside any one or more of the above facts is false. We must accept all facts concerning grace. Let us give diligence to learn and to teach the truth about the grace of God.

## Who Decides What Is Right

A thing is not normally right simply because it is legal. A practice is not necessarily right because the one engaged in it feels good about doing it. The popularity of some does not certify that it is right. Some people seem to think if a practice is socially accepted, it must be considered right. Others feel that there is no such thing as a standard of right; They believe every man becomes a law unto himself, with actions governed by his mood, his environment, his instincts, and his personal goals.

God has the authority to resolve the question of what is right. The word of God was given to man as the infallible standard. Only men and women who

do not believe in God, or who fail to take His word seriously, have trouble deciding what is right.

God's precepts show the right way, and to follow some other way is wrong. "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." (Psalm 119:128). "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Proverbs 14:12). "We ought to obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29). Nothing is really right at all unless it is right in the sight of God.

— Irvin Himmel in THE WAY,  
February 24, 1977.

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### — SENTENCE SERMONS —

When you give **in** to God, God will give **out** to your.

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In order to keep the faith, you must properly use it.

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If your religion costs little, it is worth little.

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Unless sin is confessed, it will remain and fester.

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A man who fears the face of God need not be feared by man.

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST

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