

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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ANGELS — THEIR NATURE

All we know about the nature of angels is what we read in the Scriptures. Although angels have appeared at times in the form of a man, they are **not** human beings.

I. ANGELS ARE SPIRITS. Referring to angels, God said: "**Are they not all ministering spirits, sent for to minister for them who shall be the heirs of salvation?**"

NOTE: There is no indication that angels will be heirs of salvation. There is no evidence that God will redeem fallen angels.

Also read Psa. 104:4 and Heb. 1:7. NOTE: Angels are spirits who may appear in the likeness of men sometimes. It seems that ordinarily they are invisible but may appear in a visible form.

II. ANGELS EXIST AS A COMPANY WHILE MEN EXIST AS A GENERATION OR AS GENERATIONS. Heb. 12:23 says: "**But ye are come unto Mt. Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, . . .**" NOTE: Men are GENERATED OR BORN. Therefore men exist as generations, but angels were created (not generated or born) and thus they exist as an innumerable company.

III. ANGELS CANNOT DIE. Jesus said: ". . . **Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the**

children of God, being children of resurrection." (Lk. 20:36).

NOTE: Men are mortals. They are subject to death and decay but angels are immortal. They are not subject to death and decay.

IV. ANGELS ARE GREATER IN POWER & MIGHT. Peter declared that ". . . **Angels . . . are greater in power and might, . . .**" (2 Peter 2:10-11) Also see Psa. 103:20.

V. ANGELS ARE OF A LOWER ORDER THAN GOD, FOR THEY ARE HIS CREATION. THEY ARE IN SUBJECTION TO CHRIST. Please read 1 Peter 3:22 and Eph. 1:20-22. NOTE: Angels are creatures. Creatures are lower than the Creator.

VI. ANGELS ARE A HIGHER ORDER THAN MAN. Man was made a little lower than the angels according to Heb. 2:7. NOTE: Although of a higher order than men, in times past angels sometimes appeared in the likeness of men. Consider the two "men" that visited Lot in Sodom. (Gen. 19:1-26). In verse 1 & 5 they are called "angels" and in verse 5, 8, 10 & 12 they are spoken of as "men." Also compare Jacob wrestling with an angel. (Gen. 32:24-32 & Hosea 12:3-4).

VII. ANGELS DO NOT MARRY AND ARE NOT GIVEN IN MARRIAGE, BUT MEN DO MARRY

(Continued on page 4)

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Editorial . . .

OUR PLEA (No. 3)

In our previous studies it was pointed out that **Christians are pleading for men to go back to the Bible, to accept the authority of Christ, to have faith in Christ and to obey Christ!**

NEW TESTAMENT

TEACHING & PRACTICE

V. CHRISTIANS ARE PLEADING FOR THE RESTORATION OF NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING AND PRACTICE!

Many who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ have forsaken the truth in practice although they still insist that they believe the truth. Some have stopped **preaching** the truth in certain areas (of truth) although they still practice it (at least in form). Others have clearly turned away from the truth. Ambiguity, softness and compromise characterize much preaching even among "us."

We are pleading for the restoration of New Testament teaching and practice in all matters! Here are some of them.

1. **We plead with men to recognize that there is only one true church!** A serious consideration of the following passages should support this truth. Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13; 12:20; Eph. 4:1-6; 1:22-23; 1 Cor. 1:10; Col. 1:18; John 14:6; 10:16 and Matthew 15:13.

The church is the bride of Christ according to Romans 7:4 and Rev. 22:17. **Question:** How many brides does Christ have?

2. **We plead with men to call the church by the same names (appellations or designations) it was called in the first century.**

(1) Church of God. (1 Tim. 3:15)

(2) House of the Living God. (1 Tim. 3:15).

(3) Church of the firstborn. (Heb. 12:23).

(4) Church of the Lord. (Acts 20:28 ASV).

(5) Household of faith. (Gal. 6:10).

(6) Body. (Eph. 1:22-23).

(7) Church. (Acts 8:1).

(8) Body of Christ. (Eph. 4:12).

(9) Kingdom. (Mt. 16:18-19).

(10) Etc.

Speaking of local "churches," inspired writers called them "churches of Christ," (Rom. 16:16), "churches of God," (1 Cor. 11:16) and "the seven churches which are in Asia," (Rev. 1:4), etc. NOTE: Of course, **it is Scriptural** for us to do likewise!

3. **We plead with men to accept the same organization of government in the church that was set up in the first century.** It was very simple! When fully organized, local churches consisted of saints "**with the bishops and deacons.**" Bishops were also called **elders.** They were to oversee and tend the flock among them. (Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 20:17-32; 1 Pet. 5:1-3).

4. **We plead with men to preach the same gospel the apostles preached and tell sinners the same conditions of salvation that the apostles told sinners in the first century.** The apostles preached Christ! They preached the gospel! They declared the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus! They preached salvation by grace!

(Continued on page 3)

OUR PLEA

(Continued from page 2)

(See Acts 2:22-36; Eph. 2:5; Rom. 3:24; Rom. 1:16 & 1 Cor. 15:1-4). In their preaching they set forth conditions of salvation.

1. Faith (Acts 16:30-31).
2. Repentance. Acts 17:30-31; 2:38; 3:19).
3. Confession. (Rom. 10:9-10).
4. Baptism. ((Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:12-13).

Today, we are pleading for the **same gospel to be preached** that was preached in the first century!

5. We plead with men to do only those things in the public assemblies of saints that are authorized in the New Testament! Study carefully John 4:20-24; 17:17; Heb. 10:25. In our assemblies we are authorized to:

- (1) Teach God's Word! (Cf. Acts 20:7; 11:22-26).
- (2) Pray. (Cf. Acts 12:5, 12; 1 Tim. 2:8; 1 Cor. 14:14-19; Acts 2:42).
- (3) Sing. (Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; 1 Cor. 15:15-19).
- (4) Break bread (i.e., eat the Lord's Supper). (1 Cor. 11:23-34; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:16-21). NOTE: There is **no** authority for us to eat the Lord's Supper on any day other than the first day of the week!
- (5) Lay by in store (i.e., give of our prosperity). (Cf. 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 2 Cor. 11:8). NOTE: The only time the church is authorized to take up a collection in order to carry on the Lord's work is the first day of the week!

EXALT JESUS CHRIST

VI. CHRISTIANS ARE PLEADING FOR THE RESTORATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO HIS EXALTED PLACE OF PRE-EMINENCE! Christ has all authority in heaven and earth! (Cf. Mt. 28:18; Acts 2:33; 5:31). Jesus Christ is the head of the church! (See Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18). After His death He was exalted to the right hand of God! He was given a name which is above every name! (Cf. Phil. 2:6-10).

The church has **no** inherent authority! No man, organization or group of men has any inherent authority at all!

The church is subject to Christ! (See Eph. 5:24). He is the **ONE** and **ONLY** head of the church! Christ is Lord! He is King! He is Ruler! We must humbly bow in reverence and submission to Him!

NAME OF CHRIST

VII. CHRISTIANS ARE PLEADING FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST! Prophetically, Isaiah said: "**For unto us a child is born, for unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**" (9:6). Although Jesus humbled himself, "**God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.**" (Phil. 2:6-10).

Speaking of our Lord Jesus Christ Paul said: "**Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.**" (Eph. 3:15).

James 2:7 says: "**Do they not blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?**"

Col. 3:17 teaches that all that we say and do must be done "**in the name of** (i.e., by the authority of) **the Lord Jesus.**"

Salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ! (Cf. Acts 4:12).

When Christ was raised from the dead and set at the right hand of God He was set "**far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.**" (Cf. Eph. 1:21).

We can glorify God by wearing the name **Christian!** (cf. Acts 11:26; 26:28 & 1 Peter 4:14-16.)

Many who profess to follow Christ wear names that are NOT authorized in the New Testament of Christ! To them "there is nothing in a name" and "one name is just as good as another." they do **not** agree with the sentiments expressed by their professed Saviour! Let none of us be guilty of such a contradiction.

We plead with you to accept, honor and wear the name of Christ! (CRS)

(To be continued)

ANGELS — THEIR NATURE

(Continued from page 1)

AND ARE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE. Jesus declared: "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." (Matthew 22:30).

VIII. ALTHOUGH ANGELS MAY BE SURPERHUMAN IN KNOWLEDGE, THEY ARE NOT OMNISCIENT (i.e., all knowing). Jesus said: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matt. 24:35). NOTE: The angels did NOT know of that day and hour! FURTHER NOTE: In 1 Pet. 2:12 Peter mentions some "... things the angels desire to look into." Angels are limited in their knowledge!

IX. SOME ANGELS ARE PICTURED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS HAVING WINGS.

Seraphims — Isaiah 6:2 says: "Above it stood the seraphims: each

one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly." NOTE: Each seraphim had feet, a face and six wings!

Cherubims — Ezekiel 10:21 says: "Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their faces." NOTE: The cherubims on the two ends of the mercy seat facing each other "spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, . . ." (Exo. 37:9). FURTHER NOTE: Each one had four faces and four wings!

X. ANGELS ARE PICTURED AS BEING WISE IN 2 SAMUEL 14:20. This verse mentions "the wisdom of an angel of God."

Let us not go beyond God's revelation about angels but let us respect and accept the truth about angels! (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less.

* * * * *

People do not lack strength as much as they lack will.

* * * * *

Sometimes suffering requires more courage than death.

* * * * *

Forget your mistakes but remember what they taught you.

* * * * *

A true friend can hear a tear drop.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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