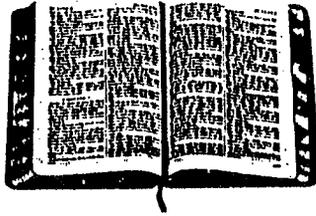


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 36

DECEMBER, 1999

Number 12

## ***"IS IT A 'BIBLE BELIEVING, CHRIST HONORING AND GOSPEL DISPENSING' CHURCH?"***

**QUESTION:** *"Is a church a 'Bible believing, Christ honoring and gospel dispensing' church if it teaches that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism as the apostles did in Acts 2?"*

**ANSWER:** A number of religious groups teach that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism like the apostles received on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. However, a candid study of the Word of God should convince every honest seeker of truth that such is *not* taught in God's Word. All that we know about Holy Spirit baptism is what is revealed in the Word of God. Please consider the following facts.

1. Holy Spirit baptism was *always* a **promise** and *never* a **command!** (See Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:4-5; 11:15-16). NOTE: A careful reading of Acts 1:4-5 will show that Jesus *commanded* the apostles to *wait* for the *promise* of the Father. He did *not* *command* the apostles to *be baptized* in the Holy Ghost, but to *wait* for the *promise*.

2. Jesus Christ (*not* the apostles or someone else) was to be the *administrator* of Holy Spirit baptism!

(See Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Luke 3:16 and John 1:33).

3. Holy Spirit baptism was promised to *some* (not all) who either *had received* or *could have received* John's baptism! (See Mt. 3:5-12; Mk. 1:3-8; Luke 3:1-17 and Acts 1:1-8).

NOTE: The *promise* of Holy Spirit baptism was made *only* to *some of John's generation*. It was *not* made to *you* or *me!* In fact, it was *not* made to *any* person living today!

4. There are only two *recorded* cases of Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament! The *apostles* (who were Jews) in Acts 2 and *Cornelius* and others (who were *Gentiles*) in Acts 10:44-47 and 11:15-17. NOTE: "**All flesh**" (Jews and Gentiles) received the Holy Spirit that was poured out as promised in Joel 2:28. (See Acts 2:16-17).

5. The *purpose* of Holy Spirit baptism upon the *apostles* was to guide them into all truth and confirm the message they preached. (See John 14:26; 16:13; Mk. 16:20 & Heb. 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles in Acts 10 & 11 to assure them and convince the Jews that God was also granting repentance un-

*(Continued on page 3)*

# THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

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

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950.

## Editorial...

### SOME SURE THINGS

Life has many "uncertainties". Many "variables" exist and must be considered in the decisions we make. Variables exist in physical, political and economic conditions. The weather varies and is uncertain. There are uncertainties in domestic affairs and financial situations. There are variables in spiritual conditions. However, there are some things that are *sure!* The word *sure* means *to be faithful; steadfast; firm; secure; safe; solid; certain.*

Let us consider some sure things.

I. *GOD IS SURE!* Mal. 3:6 says: "**For I am the Lord, I change not;...**" In 1 Cor. 1:9 Paul declared that "**God is faithful,...**" James said: "**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.**" (1:17). Also cf. 1 Cor. 10:13; Dt. 7:9; 1 Thess. 5:24; 1 Peter 4:19 & Psalms 119:90.

*Yes, God is sure!* We can always depend on Him!

### II. *JESUS CHRIST IS SURE!*

Paul said: "**But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.**" (2 Thess. 3:3). He is a "**faithful high priest**" (Heb. 2:17). 2 Tim. 2:13 says: **If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.**" Also read Rev. 3:14; Rev. 19:11-13.

Jesus did not sin! Cf. John 8:46; 1 Pet. 2:22). He is truly "**the way, the truth and the life**"! (Cf. John 14:6).

Hebrews 13:8 says: "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.**" (Cf. 13:5-6).

*Yes, without question, Jesus Christ is sure!*

### III. *THE FOUNDATION OF GOD IS SURE!*

Isaiah prophesied that the Lord God would lay in Zion "**for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation**". (28:16). This prophecy was fulfilled in Christ. (Cf. 1 Peter 2:6-8). He is the *foundation!* (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:11).

Although some erred from the faith, taught false doctrine and overthrew the faith of some, Paul declared: "**Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**" (2 Tim. 2:19). Also read 2:15-18.

*It is safe to build upon the rock, the solid foundation, because no one can shake the foundation of God!*

IV. *THE LORD'S WORD IS SURE!* The Psalmist said: "**...all his commandments are sure.**" (111:7). In 93:5 he said, "**Thy testimonies are very sure:...**"

Peter said, "**We have also a more sure word of prophecy;...**" Since holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, we

*(Continued on next page)*

can depend on God's Word because *it is sure!* (See 2 Peter 1:19-21). Also read Psa.19: 7; 111:8; 119:86, 138.

V. **HOPE IS A SURE ANCHOR OF THE SOUL!** Heb. 6:19 says: **"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast..."** *Hope is desire plus expectation.* There is **"one hope"** and **"we are saved by hope"**. (Cf. Eph. 4:4; Rom. 8:24). Neither riches, nor honor, nor pleasures, nor friends can give us true hope as an anchor of the soul. Also read Titus 1:2.

VI. **OUR CALLING AND ELECTION CAN BE SURE!** We are told in 2 Pet. 1:5-12 to add to our **"faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity"**. He then says, **"...give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."** Also read 2 Tim. 1:12; 2 Pet. 3:9; Mt. 5:6; John 7:17; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; 1 Pet. 1:4-5; 1 John 2:3; 5:13. Cf. Job. 1:22; 2:6; 40:3-5; 42:1-6; 42:10-13.

*Yes, we can make our calling and election sure!*

VII. **THE REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS SURE!** Prov. 11:18 says: **"...To him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."** Psa. 58:11 says: **"So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous:..."** Jesus said: **"...for great is your reward in heaven."** (Mt. 5:12). Also read Psa. 19:11; Heb. 11:6.

*The wicked shall receive his reward also.* Isaiah 3:11 says: **"Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him."** (Cf. Mt. 25:46).

Let us not trust in things that are material and transitory, but *let us put our trust in things that are sure!* (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

to life to Gentiles. (See Acts 10:44-47 & 11:15-18).

6. There is *one* baptism today! At one time there were other baptisms, but by the time Paul penned Eph. 4:5 (in about AD 64) he said there is **"one baptism!"** A consideration of Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16 & 1 Pet. 3:21 (which was written in about AD 64) shows us that the *one* baptism is *water* baptism! *Water* baptism and *Holy Spirit* baptism would be TWO baptisms but Paul declared there is **"one baptism!"**

7. There is NO *Holy Spirit baptism* today! First, there is *no need* for it. We have **"all truth"** that was revealed, preached and *confirmed* in the first century. (See Jas. 1:25; 2:12; Jude 3; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:1-4 & Gal.3:15). Second, there is *no genuine evidence* of Holy Spirit baptism today! *No one* is miraculously healing the sick, casting out devils, raising the dead, etc. or directly being guided into **"all truth"** by the power of God. There are many pretenders but they *all* are fakes.

After the apostles received Holy Ghost baptism there is *no record* of them *ever* trying to perform a miracle and *failing*. (See Acts 5:16). NOTE: In the first century, the New Testament (the message) was *proven* (confirmed) by miracles, but today so-called Holy Ghost baptized preachers try to "prove" their so-called miracles by the New Testament.

8. Those who claim Holy Spirit baptism today do NOT believe, obey or teach the **truth** as revealed in the New Testament on many subjects such as *how to be saved, the one church, worship, wearing titles, women preachers, etc.* They do NOT have H. S. baptism as they claim.

*No*, a church that teaches that believers today receive H. S. baptism is *not* a **"Bible believing, Christ honoring and gospel dispensing" church!** (CRS)

## THE CLOCK OF LIFE

*The clock of life is wound but once,  
And no one has the power,  
To tell just where the hands will stop  
At late, or early hour.  
To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,  
To lose one's health is more,  
To lose one's soul is such a loss,  
That no one can restore.  
The present only is our own,  
To seek to do God's will,  
Tomorrow holds no promise, for  
The clock will then be still.*

(Author unknown)

## THE INSTRUCTOR IS 36 YEARS OLD

With this issue we complete 36 years of publishing THE INSTRUCTOR. This milestone in teaching God's Word through this medium is far beyond our expectations when we began with the first issue in January, 1964.

From a small beginning the circulation has grown to several thousand. It now goes into most states and a few foreign countries.

For any and all good that may have been (or may be) accomplished by our efforts through THE INSTRUCTOR to teach others we thank God and praise Him and give Him all the glory. As Paul said: "So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." (1 Cor. 3:7) (CRS)

## THREE THINGS SIN WILL DO

1. Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go!
  2. Sin will keep you longer than you wanted to stay!
  3. Sin will cost you more than you were willing to pay!
- "The wages of sin is death."**

**BOUND VOLUME:** It is our intention to bind the last nine years of THE INSTRUCTOR in the near future. If you have received one of the prior bound volumes and would like to receive this one, please *mail* in your request soon. Thanks! (CRS)

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Until thought is linked with purpose there is no intelligent accomplishment.

\* \* \* \* \*

Live your life as an exclamation, not as an explanation.

\* \* \* \* \*

The quality of the product depends on the quality of the materials used.

\* \* \* \* \*

Alcohol will kill the living and preserve the dead.

\* \* \* \* \*

Looking ahead is a good way to keep from falling behind.

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

4777 US Highway 431  
Albertville, AL 35950

Second-class postage