

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 48

DECEMBER, 2011

Number 12

"PREACH THE WORD"

It seems all too common today to hear **gospel** preachers who have either forgotten the above exhortation to Timothy (2 Tim. 4:2), or have given in to those with "itchy" ears (verse 3), and frequently preach fables. Still others preach everything **but** the **gospel**, which is ironic since they are "**gospel**" preachers.

The **gospel** is the **power** of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). Faith comes by hearing the word of God. (Rom. 10:17). We are justified by faith. (Rom. 5:1). We are saved by faith. (Eph. 2:8). Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Heb. 11:6). Therefore, **preaching the word, the gospel**, produces faith that pleases God; that justifies; that saves.

Apparently some men today are more interested in preaching personal, humorous, eloquent, spell-binding stories. Even the preaching of the truth without identifying book, chapter and verse may convert people to what the preacher says, but not because it is **the truth of God as revealed in the Bible**.

This type of preaching makes people feel good as they "**heap to themselves preachers after their own lusts**," (2 Tim. 4:3), but ultimately wins people to the preacher and not to the power that saves, the **gospel!** (Romans 1:16)

Let us as hearers not turn away from the truth as those mentioned in 2 Tim. 4:4, but let us **hunger and thirst after righteousness**, (Matthew 5:6), and heap to ourselves those who will simply "PREACH THE WORD." ---**Tim Beutjer**

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[The above article appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, November, 1990]

WHAT CHRISTIANS NEED

Christians do not need new schemes and methods, but more faith in God's plan. Christians do not need more money, but more unselfishness. Christians do not need more time, but more wisdom for using time. Christians do not need to think bigger, but to think. Neither do they need glamour of "new frontiers", but blessings of "ancient landmarks." NOTE: This article appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, June, 1972

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, AL 35950.

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Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

“THERE IS ONE BODY...”

[Eph. 4:4-6]

The inspired apostle Paul declared in the above text that **“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; [5] One Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] One God and Father of all, and through all, and in you all.”**

NOTE: There are seven “ones” mentioned in this passage. One does not mean nor allow for two or more. One means one and it means only “one”. Let us carefully examine the expression: “There is one body...”

ONE BODY

There are more than 15 verses in the NT that mention the “body”, referring to Christians collectively or as a unit. There are at least 8 verses that say “one body”, where it is used in the same way (sense). Read the following verses: Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor.

10:17; 12:12-13, 25, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4-6; 4:12; 4:16; 5:23, 30; Col. 1:18; 2:17, etc.

BODY IS THE CHURCH

Let us now consider what is the body? The following Scriptures will answer that question.

---Col. 1:18- **“And he [the Son—ed] is the head of the body, the church...”**

---Eph. 1:20-23- **“Which he [God—ed] wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,...And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to the head of all things to the church, [23] Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”**

NOTE: It is very clear from these passages that *the body is the church and the church is the body!*

HOW MANY CHURCHES?

It is also very clear from a number of passages that we have referenced above that there is *one body*. Since that is true, it is equally true that there is *one church!* NOTE: It doesn’t matter whether you agree with this truth or not, *it is still the truth!* There is but one body, the church!

OBSERVATION: Of course, we all should know *that there are many bodies and thus many churches* that are *false* that are destined to be **“rooted up”!** [See Mt. 15:13; Psalms 127:1].

FURTHER OBSERVATION: Paul said: **“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things,**

and we by him.” [1 Cor. 8:5-6]. Although there are things called gods, as there are gods many, and lords many, to us [who are true Christians] there is but one God the Father and one Lord Jesus Christ.

Likewise, for though there be that are called “churches”, as there be churches [or denominations many], to us [who are true Christians], *there is but one true church!* That one true church is the one that **Christ promised to build** in Mt. 16:18. *It is the church that Christ purchased with his blood as taught* in Acts 20:28. It is the church over which *Christ is the head!* [Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23]. It is *the church of which Jesus Christ is its Saviour!* [Eph. 5:23]. It is the church *to which the Lord adds the saved!* [Acts 2:47]. It is the *one true body* which we were “baptized into.” by the teaching of the Holy Spirit as revealed in the word of God. [See 1 Cor. 12:13].

Let us consider some more facts about the church that is revealed in the New Testament.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Let us first consider what the church is from a negative viewpoint.

THE CHURCH IS NOT:

1. **A Denomination!** A denomination is “**a religious organization uniting in a single legal and administrative body a number of local congregations**” according Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary. All denominations are of human origin and are governed by the doctrines of men. The blood of Jesus Christ

did not purchase even one denomination and Christ is not the head of any such human organization. Neither does He promise to add “**such as should be saved**” to them. Neither has Christ promised to save any denomination!

In fact there is no authority in the New Testament for any denomination to exist. Psalms 127:1 says: “**Except the Lord build the Lord, they labour in vain that build it...**” Jesus Christ said: “**Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**”

QUESTION: Do you believe what Jesus said? Are you acting like you do?

2. **A Combination of Denominations!** Religious divisions are characteristic of denominations. Jesus said: “**...Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation...**” [Matthew 12:25]. The church is not made up of different religious organizations that teach and practice doctrines contrary to each other and contradictory to the doctrine of Christ.

3. **A Part of Any Denomination!** Denominations are formed human authority, but the church was designed by divine wisdom and built by divine authority. [See Eph. 3:10-12, 20-21]. One cannot be a member of any denomination unless he does more or less or something other than what is taught in the New Testament. However, 2 Tim. 3:16-17 teaches us that we are furnished completely unto every good work by the Scrip-

tures! We have a “**perfect law of liberty**” by which we should live and by which we will be judged! [James 1:25; 2:12].

4. **A Secret Order or Organization such as Freemasonry!** Jesus “**spake openly to the world**” and “**in secret**” he said nothing! [See John 18:20]. Freemasonry advocates error on many subjects such as calling men “master”, swearing, etc. [See Mt. 23:8-10; 5:34-37; James 5:12].

THE CHURCH IS:

1. **A Spiritual House.** It is not a material meeting house. It is made up (or built) of “**lively stones**”. Examine carefully 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:22- 2:5, etc.

2. **The Kingdom!** It is not a worldly kingdom, but a spiritual one. [See John 18:36]. The words *church* and *kingdom* are used interchangeably in Mt. 16:18-19.

Jesus indicated that the Supper would be observed in the kingdom [Mt. 26:26-29], and Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 11:17-34 that it was to be observed in the church. Therefore, they are one and the same! Those in the church were in the kingdom! [See Col. 1: 2, 13]. Also see 1 Cor. 15:23-28.

3. **The Saved!** “**...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**” [Acts 2:47].

Since all the saved are added to the church by the Lord, there are no saved ones who remain outside the church!

To be saved, a sinner must believe and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ! See Rom. 1:16; Mk. 16:16; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27, etc. When a person does this, he is “**called out**” of the world! He is saved from past sins! **He is in the church of Christ!** *Not a denomination!* (CRS)

SENTENCE SERMONS

Be kinder than necessary because everyone is fighting some kind of battle.

* * * * *

If you want dreams to come true you must not oversleep.

* * * * *

A sharp tongue can cut your own throat.

* * * * *

If you lack the courage to start, you have already finished.

* * * * *

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.

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