

# 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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## DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

In several recent business meetings, the problem of unfaithful members has been earnestly discussed. Our elders asked that preaching be done on the matter of church discipline, which was done. We are all aware of the command of the apostle: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." (2 Thess. 3:6).

New Testament teaching may be briefly summarized for the present purpose. Before fellowship is withdrawn from any brother, we must do all we can to turn him from error. (Jas. 5:19-20). Our aim is to restore him. (Gal. 6:1). The unfaithful brother is to be admonished (1 Thess. 5:14), prayed for (1 John 5:16), rebuked. (Matt. 18: 15-17). If he persists in sin after proper efforts to restore him, he is to be withdrawn from. The purpose of withdrawal of fellowship is that the erring one may be ashamed (2 Thess. 3:14), to lead him to repent (2 Cor. 2:6-7), in hope that he will be saved (1 Cor. 5:5), to cause

others to fear (1 Tim. 5:20), and to prevent the increase of sin in the church. (1 Cor. 5:6-7).

One may be withdrawn from for any open refusal to obey God's word. (2 Thess. 3:14). Some sins specified in the New Testament are: fornication, covetousness, idolatry, railing, drunkenness, extortion (1 Cor. 5:11); factiousness (Tit. 3:10); and walking disorderly, or contrary to apostolic teaching. (2 Thess. 3:6).

When one is withdrawn from, it is not merely "announced", but we must have no company with him. (2 Thess. 3:14). With such an individual we are not to engage in a social meal! (1 Cor. 5:11). The erring one is to be marked and turned away from (Rom. 16:17); no company is to be had with him (1 Cor. 5:9-11); he is "delivered to Satan" (1 Cor. 5:5, 13), treated as a heathen (Matt. 18:17), and refused. (Tit. 3:10). Yet he is not to be counted as an enemy, but is to be admonished as a brother. (2 Thess. 3:15).

The church is not following the New Testament pattern unless it is en-

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## Editorial . . .

### What Christians Believe About Jesus

The "faith" of Christians is misunderstood because many people do not understand what the Word of God teaches. I may need to explain it, but there is no need to ever apologize for my "faith" as long as it is based on the Word of God. True "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." (Rom. 10:17). Our attitude toward Jesus determines our attitude toward his word by which we'll be judged in the last day.

#### THE SON OF GOD!

Jesus was much more than a good and wise Jew. He was much more than a great philosopher. He was and is truly the Son of God. The angels announced his birth in Luke 2:11 saying: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." At his baptism and at his transfiguration, Jesus was acknowledged as the Son by the Father in heaven. (See Matt. 3:17 and Matt. 17:1-5). The miracles that Jesus wrought attest to his being the Son of God. (See John 20:30-31). Paul affirms in Rom. 1:3-4 that Jesus

was "declared to be THE SON OF GOD WITH POWER, according to the spirit of holiness BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD." On Pentecost the apostle Peter stated "that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36).

#### EARTH'S GREATEST TEACHER!

Jesus was not just another rabbi that had been taught and trained in Jerusalem. He was "a teacher come from God" as Nicodemus affirmed in John 3:2. "Never man spake like this man" is very descriptive of Jesus. He spake with authority, and not as the scribes. He spake very scathing rebukes. He denounced sinners and condemned sin. (See Matt. 23). The words of Jesus were indeed words of wisdom. Some inquired: "whence hath this man this wisdom . . . ?" (Matt. 13:54). No one has ever spoken such words of compassion and of concern for others as did Jesus — the Son of the living God!

#### SINLESS!

Jesus was not only good, kind, honest and merciful, but he was SINLESS. He asked: "which of you convinceth me of sin?" (John 8:46). He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:15). "For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens." (Heb. 7:26). Peter tells us that he "did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." (1 Pet. 2:22).

#### DIED FOR US!

The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15: 3 "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures." Titus 2:14 says "who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity . . ." We learn from Heb. 2:9 that "he tasted death for every man." Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation unto all

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## WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUE

them that obey him." (Heb. 5:9). It is essential that we "obey the gospel" in order to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. (See 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

### RAISED FROM THE DEAD!

Mark 16:9 says "Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week . . ." In Acts 2:32 the apostle Peter testified saying, "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses." Paul urged Timothy to "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel." (2 Timothy 2:8). Jesus was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD."

### BUILT HIS CHURCH!

Jesus said: ". . . upon this rock I will build my church . . ." (Matt. 16:18). We learn from Acts 20:28 that he purchased the church with his blood. God put all things under the feet of Jesus and gave him to be the head of the church. (See Eph. 1:22-23). Those who are saved are "added to the church." (Acts 2:47). Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." (Mk. 16:16). The church was not built by John. After John's death, Jesus said, "I will build my church". The church is a divine origin. All denominations are of human origin and are destined to be rooted up, (See Matt. 15:13). Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the body, which is the church. (See Eph. 5:23-25).

### WILL COME AGAIN!

Jesus came the first time over 1900 years ago. He walked upon earth and lived among men for more than thirty years. During his personal ministry he told his disciples: "I go to prepare a

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## DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH

deavoring to keep itself pure. Our elders have the responsibility of watching for souls and of exercising proper discipline. They intend to carry out the above commands of the Lord for the reasons His Word has given. The cooperation of every Christian is necessary for the Lord's plan to be placed into effect. We pray that those who are unfaithful and who must be disciplined will repent. When they repent, the discipline ends, the penitent are forgiven, and our love must be confirmed toward them to faithfully do His will in church discipline as well as in work and worship.

—The above article appeared in  
"THE RELIGIOUS REMINDER",  
April 4, 1957

## WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS (Cont'd)

place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:2-3). The two men in white apparel who witnessed the ascension of Jesus said: ". . . this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11). Rev. 1:7 says, "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him . . ." Jesus is coming again in order to take vengeance on the wicked and to receive the righteous into heavenly bliss. (See 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Thess. 4:13-17). Are you ready to meet him?

Do YOU REALLY BELIEVE in Jesus as revealed in the New Testament? Genuine faith will express itself in obedience to the will of Christ.

(CRS)

# A VOICE FROM THE PAST

"(A WORD OF WARNING) As has ever been true in the history of the church, it is true today that 'the purity of the church, unity among brethren, and ultimate victory over the world' rests upon the attitude of the members toward the word of God and the pattern of the church revealed therein. The author is one of those who believes that the New Testament reveals a fixed pattern for the church of all time and that pattern. The church must not adapt itself to the changing conditions of the times if it means a departure from the divine pattern.

The cry that the church is not doing its duty along some lines is no justification for man-made schemes for doing the work of the church. The church of the Lord was in existence for more than sixty years before the New Testament was completed. It operated in all phases of its mission on full scale. This can be done today. Those who detect failure on the part of the church in any phase of its work should not attempt to 'reform' conditions as they are, but they should set about to RESTORE the pristine purity of the church in practice as well as doctrine.

In all of our thoughts of united effort and congregational cooperation, let us keep the church of the Lord free from institutionalism. Let it be overshadowed by nothing; let nothing be tied to it, nor suffer it to be tied to man-made organizations of any kind for any purpose. In short, let us keep our eyes on the New Testament pattern."

—JOHN D. COX in CHURCH HISTORY, Pages 90-91.

## Sentence Sermons

"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith." (PROVERBS 15:17).

"A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance . . ." (PROVERBS 15:13)

"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."  
(PROVERBS 16:8)

"The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness."  
(PROVERBS 16:31)

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine . . ." (PROVERBS 17:22).

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