

# 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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## **GOD'S WORD IS POWERFUL!**

The expression, "And God said . . .," appears nine times in the first chapter of Genesis (V. 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26, 29) and in each case the thing that God said came to pass or occurred. For example, in verse 3 we read, "And God said, **Let there be light: and THERE WAS LIGHT.**" We find the expression, "And it was so" five times in Genesis 1. Psalms 33:9 says: "**For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.**" There was POWER in God's spoken word!

While Christ was on earth there was **power** in His word to:

(1) To multiply five loaves and two fishes and feed about 5,000 men besides the women and children. (See Matthew 14:15-21).

(2) To heal a leper. (See Mt. 8:3).

(3) To control the wind and the sea. (See Mt. 8:23-27).

(4) To turn water into wine. (See John 2:1-11).

(5) To raise the dead. (See John 11:11-46).

Today, the Word of God is powerful. Here are some things that it can do.

1. **God's Word can give light!** (See Psalms 119:105, 130; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).

2. **God's Word can give understanding!** (See Psalms 119:130; Eph. 3:2-6).

3. **God's Word can make one wise unto salvation!** (See Tim. 3:15).

4. **God's Word can quicken!** (See Psalms 119:50).

5. **God's Word can draw men to Christ!** (See John 6:44-45).

6. **God's Word can convict one of sin!** (See Acts 2:36-37).

7. **God's Word can give faith!** (See Romans 10:17; 10:8).

8. **God's Word can convert!** (See Psalms 19:7).

9. **God's Word can make clean!** (See John 15:3).

10. **God's Word can purify the soul!** (See 1 Peter 1:22).

11. **God's Word is able to save our souls!** (See James 1:21; Rom. 1:16).

The new Testament of Jesus Christ is a complete standard in religious matters today. James declared: "**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**" (James 1:25). No doubt, the law of Christ (as mentioned in Gal. 6:2 and

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### *Editorial . . .*

## SOME SINS OF DISPOSITION OR ATTITUDE (No. 6)

In our past articles we have studied the sins of HATRED, EVIL SURMISINGS, INGRATITUDE, ENVY, MURMURING and PRIDE. Let us continue our study of some sins of disposition or attitude.

### SELFISHNESS

VII. SELFISHNESS. According to Webster's New World Dictionary & Student Handbook (Elem. ed.) the word SELFISH means "caring too much about oneself, with little or no thought or care for others." A selfish person has self-interest and is self-indulgent and self-centered. One's whole life centers around self. He is concerned about his needs, wants, desires, preferences, likes, dislikes and feelings. The feelings and welfare of others do not matter.

A selfish person must have his own way. A person may manifest selfishness by not being sensitive to the feelings of his companion, his parents, his children, his brothers or sisters, his friends, his neighbors or brothers or sisters in Christ.

Sometimes children manifest their selfishness by imposing on their parents and parents show their selfish attitude by imposing on their children. Christians may indicate they are selfish by imposing on other Christians.

A selfish attitude may show itself by showing little or no concern for the welfare and feelings of others.

Paul declared: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. FOR MEN SHALL BE LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES, . . ." (2 Tim. 3:1-2). NOTE: A lover of self is indeed guilty of selfishness!

To follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we must deny ourselves! Jesus said: "If any man will come after me, let him DENY HIMSELF, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). We also need to keep in mind that ". . . 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." (Titus 2:11-12).

To follow the Lord Jesus Christ, we must be concerned about and care for others! Paul admonished "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth" (1 Cor. 10:24), and "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Phil. 2:3-4).

Are YOU a selfish person?

### PREJUDICE

VIII. PREJUDICE. Webster defines "prejudice" as ". . . preconceived judgment or opinion (2): an opinion or leaning adverse to anything without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge. . . ." It involves closed-mindedness and condemnation without investigation. Partiality may be involved also.

Prejudice (i.e., pre-judging or judging before one has all the facts) is a prevalent sin. Many of God's children are guilty of this evil. For example, a person may hear "one side" of a "church problem" and immediately judge as to the guilt or innocence of the people

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# SOME SINS OF DISPOSITION OR ATTITUDE

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involved. A person (or persons) may be **condemned** before (or without) some pertinent facts are considered. This is sinful! **Another example:** A person may hear something "bad" about another person and immediately believe it and pass it on to others as if it were really true although it may not be true. The person may not make any effort whatsoever to "check it out" before accepting and believing it. This is wrong!

Solomon said: "**He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.**" (Prov. 18:13), and "**He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him.**" (Prov. 18:17). Also see Prov. 17:15.

Jesus said: "**Judge not, that ye be not judged,**" (Mt. 7:1), and "**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**" (John 7:24).

If we will practice the "golden rule" as taught in Luke 6:31 we will not be guilty of this sin.

## UNFORGIVENESS

IX. UNFORGIVENESS. Webster defines "**forgiveness**" as "1. a **forgiving or being forgiven; pardon.** 2. a **being ready to forgive.**" Unforgiveness is **not** forgiving or pardoning or **not** being ready to do so.

Many who claim to be Christians do not have the spirit of forgiveness. Once a person has committed **certain** sins they are not willing to forgive them (unless they are **close** relatives or **close** friends).

In the model prayer Jesus teaches his disciples to pray: "... **And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. . .**" or as it is worded in Matthew's record: "... **And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. . .**" (Cf. Luke 11:4 and Mt. 6:12).

The following Scriptures teach that we

must forgive those who repent and have a forgiving spirit toward ALL who sin.

(1) Mark 11:25-"**And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.**"

(2) Luke 17:3-5-"**Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.**"

(3) Eph. 4:32-"**And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.**"

If we guilty of this sin of unforgiveness let us, like the apostles say, "**Increase our faith.**"

## FEAR

X. FEAR. In this study we are considering "**fear**" in the sense of "**timidity**" or "**cowardice.**" The idea seems to be that a person is too timid or too much of a coward to obey God. This attitude or disposition is sinful. Such a person may have too much cowardice to oppose error or to resist sin. He may be afraid of what people may think or say about him. King Saul said to Samuel: "**I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words; because I FEARED the people, and obeyed their voice.**" (1 Sam. 15:24).

Let us remember that Paul said: "**For God hath not given us THE SPIRIT OF FEAR: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.**" (2 Tim. 1:7).

The sin of **timidity** or **cowardice** must be guarded against. It is a serious problem because it may cause one to be lost. John said: **But THE FEARFUL, . . . shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death.**" (Rev. 21:8).

*(To be continued)* (CRS)

# GOD'S WORD IS POWERFUL

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1 Cor. 9:21) is the perfect law of liberty. We read in 2 Tim. 3:16-17 that **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."**

Those who claim that the **word of God** is just "a dead letter" do so at their own peril. We should give diligence to learn the truth as revealed in the Scriptures and **do** it because it will be **the standard** by which we shall be **judged** in

the last day. (See John 12:48; James 2:12).

Yes, **". . . the word of God is quick and powerful. . ."** (Heb. 4:12). (CRS)

## A CORRECTION

In the front page article last month in THE INSTRUCTOR where those who were recently appointed as **bishops** and **deacons** were listed, JERRY TUCKER was inadvertently omitted from the list of **deacons**. JERRY was also appointed to serve as a **deacon**. We are sorry for the oversight.

PROVERBS 27:4 - **"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"**

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

Usually the chains of a habit are too small to be felt until they are too strong to break.

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If you deal loosely, don't be surprised if you get into tight places.

\* \* \* \* \*

When you are facing the sun, your shadow will fall behind you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some people will praise **dead** saints and persecute **living** ones.

\* \* \* \* \*

People usually get at odds with one another when they try to get even.

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