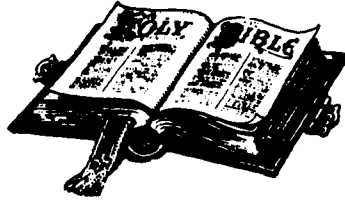


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 2

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

Although many people are faithless, the Hebrew writer declared: **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."** (11:6). The essentiality and importance of faith can be seen as one meditates on the above verse. We can also see the **necessity of having faith** (or believing) as we consider the following.

1. **WE MUST BELIEVE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE REMISSION OF SINS!** In Acts 10:43 the apostle Peter declared: **"To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins."**

2. **FAITH IS ESSENTIAL TO BECOMING A CHILD OF GOD!** 1 John 5:1 says: **"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: . . ."** Also see and carefully study John 1:11-12 and Galatians 3:26-27.

3. **WE MUST BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE JUSTIFIED!** Paul said: **"Knowing that a man is**

not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal. 2:16) Also read Rom. 5:1 & Gal. 3:24.

4. **FAITH IS ESSENTIAL TO PURIFYING THE HEART!** In Acts 15:9 Peter declared: **"And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."**

5. **WE MUST BELIEVE IN ORDER TO BE SAVED!** In explaining the parable of the sower, Jesus said: **"Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."** (Luke 8:12). In Acts 16:31 Paul and Silas said to the jailor in Philippi: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."** Also see and study Eph. 2:8-9; Romans 1:16;

(Continued on page 4)

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Editorial . . .

TRUTH – WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT?

We are faced daily with either **error** and/or **truth**? This is truth in all realms of life. We are especially concerned in this study with **error** and **truth** in the spiritual realm. In this study we are concerned about the **truth** as revealed in the **Scriptures**. **What should we do with the truth?**

Let us now consider from a **negative** viewpoint what we should do with the truth. **Negatively, WE SHOULD NOT:**

1. **BE IGNORANT OF THE TRUTH!** A long time ago God said to Israel through **Hosea**: “**My people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge: . . .**” (4:6). Jesus told the Sadducees that they erred, “**Not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.**” (Cf. Mt. 22:29). It is God’s will that “**all men come unto the knowledge of the truth.**” (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:3-4).

2. **TURN OUR EARS AWAY FROM THE TRUTH!** Paul charged Timothy to “**Preach the word. . .**” because the time would come when some would not endure sound doctrine and would turn their ears away from the truth. (Cf. 2 Tim. 4:2-4). Jesus said: “**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**” (Mk. 4:9). Of course, we should take heed **what** we hear and **how** we hear. (Cf. Mk. 4:24 & Luke 8:18). Also see Titus 1:14.

3. **BE DESTITUTE OF THE**

TRUTH! In 1 Tim. 6:3-6 Paul mentioned some who were “**destitute of the truth,**” supposing that gain is godliness and he admonished Timothy, saying: “**From such withdraw thyself.**”

4. **ERR CONCERNING THE TRUTH!** Hymenaeus and Philetus erred concerning the truth and overthrew the faith of some. (Cf. 2 Tim. 2:16-18). A person may “**err from the truth**” and need converting because he is in sin and thus lost. (Cf. James 5:19-20).

5. **SPEAK EVIL OF THE WAY OF TRUTH!** In discussing false teachers who bring in damnable heresies Peter said: “**And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: . . .**” (2 Peter 2:1-3).

6. **HOLD THE TRUTH IN UPRIGHTNESS!** The apostle Paul warned in Romans 1:18 that “. . .the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

7. **RESIST THE TRUTH!** In describing some that would cause perilous times in the last days because of their conduct Paul said: “**Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.**”

8. **LIE AGAINST THE TRUTH NOR CHANGE THE TRUTH OF GOD INTO A LIE!** In James 3:14 we read: “. . .and lie not against the truth” and in Rom. 1:25 Paul mentions some “**who changed the truth of God into a lie, . . .**”

From a **positive** viewpoint, **what should we do with the truth?** **Positively, WE SHOULD:**

1. **KNOW THE TRUTH!** Jesus said to some Jews that believed on him: “**If ye continue in my word, then are**

THE TRUTH — WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH IT?

(Continued from page 2)

ye my disciples in deed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32). Please also see 1 Tim. 2:3-4; 4:3; 2 Tim. 3:7 & Prov. 22:20-21).

2. RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE TRUTH! Paul exhorted Timothy to "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). We should not handle "the word of God deceitfully." (Cf. 2 Cor. 4:1-2).

3. DESIRE THE TRUTH! Jesus declared: "Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Mt. 5:6). Peter exhorted: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (1 Pet. 2:2.)

4. BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT! A long time ago Solomon exhorted: "Buy the truth, and sell it not: also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." (Prov. 23:23). Also see Mt. 13:44-46.

5. BELIEVE THE TRUTH! Paul said: "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (2 Thess. 2:12). Also see v. 13; John 8:45-46 & Mark 16:15-16.

6. OBEY THE TRUTH! Peter wrote to Christians: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit. . ." (1 Pet. 1:22). Also see 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Mt. 7:21; James 1:22, 25; Gal. 3:1; 5:7; Rom. 2:8-11; 1 John 1:6 & Rev. 22:14.

7. WALK IN THE TRUTH! John said: "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father." (2 John 4). Verse 6 says: "And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the command-

ment, that, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it." Also see 3 John 3-4 & Gal. 2:11-14.

8. SPEAK THE TRUTH! Solomon said: "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit." (Prov. 12:17). Paul exhorted: "But speaking the truth in love, . . ." (Eph. 4:15) Read Jer. 9:1-8.

9. LOVE THE TRUTH! We should love the truth as the Psalmist expressed it in Psalms 119:97, 113, 127, 140, 165 and 167. It is very important that we have the love of the truth. Paul describes some people who will perish "because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in righteousness." (2 Thess. 2:10-12)

10. REJOICE IN THE TRUTH! Speaking of love Paul said: "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." (1 Cor. 13:6).

Truth is indeed a pearl of great price! Our attitude toward and our relationship to the truth will determine our relationship to God here in this life and also in eternity!

What are YOU doing with the truth?

ONEONTA MEETINGS

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS AT THE McCAY AVE. Building in ONEONTA, AL MARCH 18-20, 1994 at 7:30 each evening. Lord's Day meetings will be at the regular times. CARROL R. SUTTON WILL PREACH!

THE NECESSITY OF FAITH

(Continued from page 1)

1 Cor. 1:21; 2 Thess. 2:13 & Mark 16:15-16.

6. FAITH IS ESSENTIAL TO LIVING RIGHT AND OVERCOMING THE WORLD! In Romans 1:17 the apostle Paul declared that "... **The just shall live by faith.**" In Habakkuk 2:4 we read: "... **but the just shall live by his faith.**" Also see Gal. 2:20.

John declared: "... **And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.**" (1 John 5:4).

7. WE MUST BELIEVE IN ORDER TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE! In John 6:47 Jesus said: "... **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**" Also see and study John 3:16; 5:24 & 3:36. NOTE: We have eternal life **now in promise and now in hope.** Read very carefully 1 John 2:25 & Titus 1:2.

If you would please God and receive the blessings that are discussed in this article **you must have faith!** Do you have genuine **faith?** (CRS)

"QUIT YE LIKE MEN"

The admonition to "**Quit ye like men**" in 1 Corinthians 16:13 is addressed to "**The church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, WITH ALL that in EVERY PLACE call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.**" (1 Cor. 1:2). In other words, it was addressed to all **Christians** every where as well as to those at Corinth. So, this admonition applies to all Christians of all ages.

According to THAYER'S LEXICON (p. 43) the word translated "**Quit ye like men**" means "**to show one's self a man, be brave.**" GREEN'S INTERLINEAR says, "**Be men.**" The NASV says, "**Act like men.**"

In 1 Cor. 14:20 Paul said, "**Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.**" Paul also said: "... **But when I became a man, I put away childish things.**"

We need saints who "**act like men**" instead of acting like children. We need to put away "**childish things**" and "**act like men.**" (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Don't blame God for the harvest since you are the one who did the sowing.

* * * * *

Regardless of what your past has been, you can have a spotless future.

* * * * *

The one thing that most people "in love" don't want is advice.

* * * * *

Once you've traded your good reputation for money, it is impossible to trade back.

* * * * *

The straight and narrow way is not over-crowded.

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