

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

FEBRUARY, 2011

Number 2

WHY "SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE"?

In Col. 3:1-2 the apostle Paul said: **"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth."** NOTE: We are not to set our affections on things on the earth, but we are to **"set our affections on things above"** and to seek them.

Here are some reasons for seeking those things which are above.

I. SEEKING THE THINGS OF THIS EARTH BRINGS NO REAL SATISFACTION!

--The nature of the physical part of man is that his needs must continually be resupplied as long as he lives.

--Consider such things as food, drink, clothing, shelter, etc.

--Solomon expressed the inability of material things & goals to satisfy by saying: **"He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase..."** (Eccl. 5:10).

--Things which are above are those things which can bring lasting satisfaction to man's needs such as living water and living bread. (See

John 4:13-14 & John 6:48-58).

II. THINGS OF THE EARTH ARE UNCERTAIN!

--There is no assurance that one will reach his goal & obtain them.

--It is foolish to seek only earthly goods! (See James 4:13-16) We should not **"trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God."** (See 1 Tim. 6:17-19).

--We should have faith in God & follow Him. (See Mt. 5:6; 7:7; 6:33)

III. THE THINGS OF THE EARTH ARE DESTINED TO PASS AWAY!

--1 John 2:17 says: **"the world passeth away, and the lust thereof..."** This is the ultimate end of all earthly goods, goals & achievements.

--Read carefully 2 Cor. 4:16-18. There is an **"outward man"** that can be seen and an **"inward man"** that cannot be seen.

We do not place the emphasis on the **"outward man"** (& other things) which are seen because they are temporal, but we place the emphasis on the **"inward man"** (& other things) which are not seen because they are eternal! Please seek those things which are above!

(CRS)

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.

<i>ELDERS</i>	<i>DEACONS</i>
Lionel Gary	Gary Chumley
Rex Henson	Jerry Tucker
Mike Pack	Gerald White
Carrol R. Sutton	

CARROL RAY SUTTON
Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>
Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the **Editor**, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <the-instructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@att.net>

Periodical postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

TROUBLE IN ISRAEL

(1 Kings 18:17-18)

1 Kings 18:17-18 says: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou has followed Baalim." At the time that Ahab was king over Israel the things mentioned above occurred.

There is much "talk" about "trouble", who causes it, etc. in the church today.

There is much written in the Scriptures about trouble among God's people in both Old and New Testament times. We can profit by a study of those Scriptures. See the following Scriptures.

---Job 14:1 we read: "Man that is born of woman is of few

days and full of trouble."

---Psalms 22:11- "Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help."

---Prov. 15:6- "In the house of the righteous is much treasure; but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble."

---Isa. 57:20- "But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt."

---Daniel 12:1- "...and there shall be a time of trouble."

---2 Cor. 1:8- "...of our trouble which came to us in Asia..."

---Prov. 25:19- "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."

GOD HELPS IN TIME OF TROUBLE

---Psalms 9:9- "The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble."

Psalms 27:5- "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion;...he shall set me up upon a rock."

---Psalms 37:39- "He is their strength in the time of trouble."

---Psalms 46:1- "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

---Psalms 54:7- "For he hath delivered me out of all trouble..."

---Prov. 12:13- "...but the just shall come out of trouble."

I. WHO TROUBLED ISRAEL?

Read 1 Kings 18:17-18 again and consider it very carefully. When King Ahab met Elijah, Ahab said unto him: "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" NOTE: This is equivalent to Ahab saying: "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" (NKJV) Elijah replied: "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the com-

mandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim."

Ahab and his father's house were the real "troublers" of Israel but he tried to shift the blame for causing trouble on Elijah, the prophet of God, by falsely accusing him. Elijah plainly denied being the "troubler" of Israel and told King Ahab that he and his father's house were the ones who were guilty of troubling Israel.

Today we should not be surprised when those who are causing trouble falsely accuse those who are doing God's will as being the "trouble makers."

II. THERE WAS TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY.

A study of Acts 15:1-32 will reveal that the trouble was over the question of circumcision. Certain men which came down from Judaea to Antioch taught the brethren, saying, "**Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.**" This was false teaching. Paul and Barnabas disputed with them. Some of the sect of the Pharisees which believed said, "**That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.**" Problems prevailed!

There was division in the church at Corinth. (See 1 Cor. 1:10-16). Trouble existed!

There were some in the churches of Galatia who had been "**removed from him that called**" them "**into the grace of Christ unto another gospel**" which was not a true gospel but a perverted one. (See Gal. 1:6-12; 3:1-5; 5:1-4; 5:10-12; 6:12-15.) Problems existed.

Who Caused the Trouble in the Church in the First Century?

It was not caused by those who preached and practiced the truth. The truth produces faith, frees one from sin and gives directions as to how we ought to behave ourselves. (See Rom. 10:17; John 8:32; James 1:25; 2:12).

The trouble in the first century was caused by false teachers and those who did not practice the truth as was taught by true men of God. (See Acts 15:1-2; Gal. 1:6-8; Gal. 5:10-12; Romans 16:17-18, etc.)

NOTE: We must teach and practice only what is revealed in the Scriptures. We must not add to nor take away from God's truth. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; Deut. 4:2; 12:32; 2 John 9, etc.)

III. THERE WAS TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH IN THE 1800'S.

There was a number of brethren who became dissatisfied with God's arrangement for each church (local congregation) to provide the funds for and the oversight of its work of spreading (preaching or teaching) the gospel of Christ to the extent of its ability and opportunity to do so. (See 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8; Phil.1:1,etc.) They began to leave the Word of God to teach and practice that which was not authorized in God's Word. They followed the wisdom of men and turned away from God's wisdom and way when in 1849 they formed a humanly devised Missionary Society to which they urged churches to contribute funds to and turn their oversight of the work of preaching the gospel to the Society. This was done without any Scriptural authority whatsoever. This was a product of human wisdom with-

out any real regard for what the Word of God says. It was an addition to the truth of God! It was a transgression of the doctrine of Christ! It was sinful and caused much division and many heartaches among God's children!

Another major issue that arose in the 1800's that caused a lot of trouble among Christians and divided many churches was the use of mechanical instrumental music in the worship assemblies of the churches.

Much false doctrine was taught and the mechanical instruments of music were brought into the worship assemblies of many churches. The first one was brought into a worship assembly in about 1859. This was done without any Scriptural authority whatsoever! This was a product of human wisdom without any real regard for what the Word of God says! It was an addition to the truth of God! It was a trans-

gression of the doctrine of Christ! It was sinful and caused much division and many heartaches among the children of God.

Who Caused the Trouble in the Churches in the 1800's?

Those who preached and practiced the truth concerning the sufficiency of the church to do its work of preaching the gospel without adding human societies to do the work of the church and those who preached and practiced the truth by worshipping God in truth by singing, etc. did not cause the trouble in the churches.

Those who disregarded the truth and added unscriptural human societies to do the work of the church and mechanical instrumental music in worship are guilty of causing trouble in the churches at that time! (To be cont'd)

Bound Volumes (2000 – 2008) are still available.
LIVE SERMONS over internet each Lord Day!
Go to <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com> to tune in each Lord's Day at 11am and 6:15pm.

SENTENCE SERMONS

We should be strong in our gentleness and gentle in our strength.

* * * * *

Someone may start an "idle rumor", but it never remains idle.

* * * * *

Calling attention to the faults of others does not rid us of our own faults nor justify us.

* * * * *

Some people grow under responsibility, as they should, while others merely swell.

* * * * *

May we have the concern to find what is true, and the fortitude to practice what is right & good.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Periodical Postage