

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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MINISTERS OF SATAN

In 2 Cor. 11:13-15 Paul said **“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”**

Although many are not aware of it, Satan has many ministers. They serve and promote his cause while claiming to be faithful servants of God and the Lord Jesus Christ in many instances. They may appear as “apostles” but they are *false* apostles. They may be zealous workers but they are *deceitful* workers.

In Mt. 7:15-16 Jesus warns of some of Satan’s ministers when he said: **“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits...”** Ministers of Satan appear as sheep but in reality they are *“ravenous wolves”*. We are *obligated* to pull their “sheep hides” off and show they

really are ministers of Satan!

Satan is a hater of good and an adversary of saints! He is **“the accuser of our brethren”** & cast some into prison. Rev. 12:10; 2:10.

Judas was a minister of Satan to betray Christ. See Lk. 22:3-6. Ananias was a minister of Satan to lie unto God. See Acts 5:1-4

Obviously Satan has a synagogue with people who serve him [see Rev. 2:9; 3:9]. He even has a “seat” & “dwells” *among* some Christians [see Rev. 2:13].

Ministers of Satan make various claims but they lie. They are influenced by their father the devil. There is no truth in him. He is a liar and the father of a lie. [See John 8:44].

False doctrines are propagated by “ministers of Satan”.

“The working of Satan” is **“with all power and signs and lying wonders”** for the purpose of deceiving those who do **“not have the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”** [2 Thess. 2:9-12] Ministers of Satan appear **“as ministers of righteousness”** but they are deceivers! Beware!

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

HOW GODLINESS PROFITS

In 1 Timothy 4:7-8 we read: **“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.”**

We learn from 1 Tim. 6:5-6 that there are some people who suppose that **“gain is godliness.”** We are told to withdraw ourselves from such people. We are told clearly that **“godliness with contentment is great gain.”** We learn from 1 Tim. 6:11-12 that the **“man of God”** is to **“follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness”** and to **“fight the good fight of faith”**...! Peter exhorts Christians to add **“godliness”** to **“patience”**, and to **“godliness”**, add **“brotherly kindness.”** [2 Pet. 1:6-7]

VINE defines the words that

are translated **godly, godliness**, etc. as follows: “To be devout, denotes that piety which, characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well-pleasing to Him...” “...denotes the fear or reverence of God...” “...denotes pious, devout, godly, indicating reverence manifested in actions...”

The writer of Hebrews said: **“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”** [12:28-29]

Peter declared in 2 Pet. 1:3 that **“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness...”**

HOW DOES GODLINESS PROFIT US?

IT PROFITS US:

MATERIALLY

1. Not necessarily with an abundance of riches. God has not made such a promise to us!

2. Not necessarily a life of ease! No such promise is given!

3. We will have the basic essentials of life such as food, drink and raiment, etc. See Matthew 6:25-33; Mk 10:28-30, etc.

PHYSICALLY

1. Note the statement in 1 Tim. 4: 8 that says: **“...godliness is profitable unto *all things*, having promise of *the life that now is*, and of that which is to come.”** NOTE: This statement indicates that we are blessed “physically if we live godly.

2. Here is one way that we

are blessed physically. If we live godly, we will control our bodies and thus our actions. We will bring our bodies into subjection and we will mortify the evil deeds of the body. [See 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 8:13; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:5; etc.] Our bodies will not be harmed or defiled by promiscuity, intoxicating drinks, tobacco, [whether it is “tame” or a wild tobacco like marijuana (HEMP)] “meth” or other forms of “dope”, etc.

3. If we are godly, we will obey civil laws which have been given for our protection, etc. [See Rom. 13:1-7]. For example, if we obey civil traffic laws we are not as likely to be injured or killed in an auto accident as we would be otherwise. If we are “peacemakers” instead of “troublemakers”, we are not as likely to be injured or killed as we would be otherwise. (See Rom. 12:18-19; Heb. 12:1; Prov. 9:10-11; 10:27; etc.)

MENTALLY

1. The expression “*godliness is profitable unto all things*” would certainly indicate that we are profited “mentally” if we are godly.

2. Here is one way that godliness will profit us mentally. We will be free from anxiety or worry. Read and meditate on Mt. 6:25-34 and be impressed with why Jesus tells His disciples to “**take no thought**”, or “**be not anxious**” or “**do not worry**”, etc., depending on which translation you are reading from.

3. Godliness will bring us happiness. Jesus said: “**Blessed [happy – L. O. translation] are**” the poor in spirit, they that mourn, the meek, they which do hunger

and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, etc. in Mt. 5:3-10.

Peter said: “**But and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye...**” and “**if ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you...**” [1 Peter 3:14 & 1 Peter 4:14] James 5:11 says: “**Behold we count them happy which endure...**”

4. Read and carefully examine Psalms 144:15; Proverbs 16:20; 28:14; 29:18; James 1:25, etc.

5. Godliness will bring contentment. [1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5-6; Phil. 4:10-12; etc.]

SOCIALLY

If we live godly, we’ll recognize that “**Evil communications corrupt good manners**” and we will “**abstain from all appearance of evil**”. [See 1 Cor. 15:33 & 1 Thess. 5:22].

If we live godly, we’ll keep our trust in God, doing his will, and we will be well adjusted socially.

SPIRITUALLY

1. If we will live godly, it will certainly profit us “spiritually”. 1 Tim. 4:8 says “**...having promise of the life that now is, and also in that which is to come**”. When we truly have faith in and obey God in this life, we are richly blessed spiritually in this life with redemption through His blood, reconciliation, the forgiveness of past sins, acceptance in the beloved, deliverance from darkness, translation into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son; etc.

In fact, we have access to all spiritual blessings in Christ. [Eph. 1:3, 6-7; 2:11-22; 2 Cor. 5:

17-20; Col. 1:12-17; etc.]

2. Paul declared: **“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, Teaching us, that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world: Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”** [Titus 2:11-14]

3. Godliness will certainly profit us spiritually because if we are godly we will follow Christ by obeying the teachings of His Testament. We will follow the teaching in 2 Pet. 1:5-11. We will recognize that Christ will strengthen us to enable us to do His will. [See Phil. 4:13; 2 Cor.

12:9-10; Col. 1: 10-11] God will always provide a way of escape when we are tempted. [See 1 Cor. 10:13]

4. We have eternal life now in promise. We have it now in hope! In the world to come, we will have it in actuality, in possession! [1 Jno. 2:25; Titus 2:1; Mark 10:28-30] (CRS)

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Job 13:15- **“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him...”**

Two Lessons at East Albertville on **PREMILLENNIALISM** by BOBBY GRAHAM on March 4, 2012.

SENTENCE SERMONS

The way to practice “pure religion” is to believe and obey the teachings of Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

“Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.”

* * * * *

Baptism always comes *after* faith and repentance, but it always comes *before* salvation!

* * * * *

The man who always does as he pleases, does not always do the things that please God!

* * * * *

A religion that originates not with and does not conform to the teachings of Christ, is not *pure*!

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