

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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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The church of Christ is a divine organization, free from all human traditions, bearing the following marks of identity:

1. The Founder of the church as born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2; Matt. 2:6). A person born in any other place cannot be the founder of the church of Christ.

2. Jesus Christ was the Founder of the church. (Matt. 16:18). Any other person claiming to found the church or a church is an imposter.

3. Jesus is the foundation of the church. (1 Cor. 3:11). An institution built upon any other foundation is not the church of Christ.

4. Jesus is the head of the church. (Col. 1:18). An institution having any other head is not the church of Christ.

5. The church of Christ is one body, each individual Christian being a member of that body, with Christ as its head (Eph. 4:4; Col. 1:18). Individual Christians, and not religious denominations, are members of the body. Each denomination is itself a body with its own head.

Christ is the head of ONE body, or church only — not of a multitude of denominations.

6. Jerusalem is the place of the beginning of the church. (Isa. 2:1-3; Lk. 24:47; Acts 1:1-26; 2:1-47). An institution beginning at any other place is not the church of Christ.

7. The church of Christ has a well-defined law of admission. (John 3:5; Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). An institution admitting members in any other way is not the church of Christ.

8. It has a creed that needs no revision, (Matt. 16:16), and its "discipline" (2 Tim. 3:16-17), nullifies all human creeds, disciplines, confessions of faith, and catechisms, rendering them useless, even condemning the man who manufactures them. (Rev. 22:18-19).

9. The followers of Christ are distinguished by a divinely-given name. (Isa. 62:2; Zech. 14:9; Matt. 10:32; Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). An institution wearing any other name than the name of Christ; whose members wear

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Editorial . . .

Are You A Busybody?

It goes without question that we should be busy. However, one may be busy and not be following the Lord. We should be busy in the right way and not be "busybodies" in other men's matters. In 2 Thess. 3:10-11 the apostle Paul said: "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are BUSYBODIES." In speaking of younger widows Paul told Timothy: "And withal they learn to be idle, but tattlers also and BUSYBODIES, speaking things which they ought not." In 1 Peter 4:15 the apostle Peter said: "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil-doer, or a BUSYBODY in other men's matters."

THAYER'S LEXICON defines the word that is translated "busybody" as follows: "TO BUSTLE ABOUT USELESSLY, TO BUSY ONE'S SELF ABOUT TRIFLING, NEEDLESS, USELESS MATTERS . . . : used apparently of a person officiously inquisitive about

other's affairs, (A. V. to be a busybody), 2 Thess. 3:11 . . ." He further says: "BUSY ABOUT TRIFLES AND NEGLECTFUL OF IMPORTANT MATTERS, esp. BUSY ABOUT OTHER FOLKS' AFFAIRS, A BUSYBODY: 1 Tim. 5:13." (Page 502). Mr. Thayer also says: "ONE WHO TAKES THE SUPERVISION OF AFFAIRS PERTAINING TO OTHERS AND IN NO WISE TO HIMSELF, (a meddler in other men's matters); 1 Peter 4:15 . . ." (Page 29). A person who is either busy in prying into the affairs of others or who zealously busies himself in trifling, needless, useless matters is a BUSYBODY. It is sinful to be a busybody.

There are many things that others know and do that are not any of our business whatsoever. We are meddling when we are inquisitive about such things. Some people seem to have "antennas" for ears and a "microphone" for a mouth. Things that are none of their business are of chief concern to them and makes up a large part of their life. They try to "keep up with" all the evil tales and juicy gossip so they can be instrumental in letting someone else "in" on what is "really going on." They make statements of what they have surmised or what has been "rumored" as if they know of a certainty that such statements are true. They express surprise as such "alarming things." Often times, they tell "things" in "strict confidence" to their "friends" and act as if they are doing them a great favor, when in reality they may be acting with selfish motives. Someone has suggested that such people could better serve the Cause of Christ "if their tongues were split and tied!"

Surely, all of us should be able to see the futility and folly of being a "busy body in other men's matters." Everlasting punishment is the doom of such!

Although we must not be "busybodies," we are indeed our "brother's

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THE CHURCH OF CHRIST Cont'd

any other names than those given in the New Testament, such as disciple or Christian, cannot be the church of Christ. Human organizations wear human names.

10. The church of Christ has one system of worship. (Lk. 22:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29; 16:1-2; Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:19-21). An institution that does not observe, or adds to, or takes from or in any way changes this system, cannot be the church of Christ.

11. The church of Christ has one system of government: Elders and Deacons. There were several (at least two—CRS) in each fully-developed congregation, and they had no authority outside their respective congregations. (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). The centralization of power in the hands of such functionaries as popes, cardinals, arch-bishops, reverends, etc., or in such assemblies as synods, presbyteries, conference or conventions, was unknown in New Testament times, as well as the functionaries and assemblies themselves.

The Word of God — the Bible — contains sufficient instructions to guide us in the worship and in the work of the church (2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; Jude 3); it condemns all who go beyond its teaching (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9); it pronounces a curse upon the man or angel who preaches another gospel (Gal. 1:8-9), and threatens with plagues, and exclusion from eternal life, all those who add to or take from the things

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What Do You Mean, "Hard Work?"

Let's hope that none of the honey dealers read this, or the price of honey may go up. It seems that an English investigator has been learning how the busy little bee does its work, and springs some startling statistics.

A pound of honey contains 7,000 grains of sugar, which, he says, represent the concentrated sweetness of 62,000 clover blossoms, each of which comprises 60 florets. To obtain this amount of honey the bee is obliged to make 2,700,000 visits to and from the flowers, covering a distance of approximately 5,000,000 miles.

In the process of extracting the honey, he inserts his tiny proboscis into each separate floret, which means that he performs the operation 3,720,000 times to get enough nectar to make a pound of honey . . . and then he doesn't always get to eat the honey!

To Solomon's injunction, 'Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise,' may well be added this: "Observe the bee, thou whiner; compare thy labors with his, and cease complaining."

—Cleveland, Miss., BULLETIN

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written therein. (Rev. 22:18-19).

Having thus identified the church of Christ we ask: Are you a member of this church? If not, why not think seriously on what has been placed before you, follow the truth, and become a Christian only? —Author Unknown

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ARE YOU A BUSYBODY?

keeper" and as such we have grave responsibilities toward them. We have the responsibility of rebuking them when they are in sin. We have the obli-

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OUR NEW BUILDING

On January 1, 1969 the East Albertville Church of Christ met for the first time in its new building. It is located on Highway 431 South in Albertville about ¼ mile south of the Arrow Shirt Factory. We certainly do rejoice and thank our Heavenly Father for the blessings that has made the erection of a new building in which to worship and serve God a reality. We have a comfortable, commodious, modest and yet a beautiful building. We do not consider the erection of the new building our primary goal but simply a means that we trust will aid us in worshipping God, edifying each other, and teaching the lost the pure gospel of our blessed Lord.

There are Bible classes each Lord's Day at 10:00 A.M. and each Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. Our assembly worship is at 11:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. each Lord's Day.

Some of you have never attended a service of the church of Christ although

you may have considered such. Why not put forth the needed effort and come and be with us and we'll sincerely try to do you good.

We extend to all, and especially to YOU, a cordial invitation to attend the services of the East Albertville congregation. YOU will receive a sincere, warm WELCME!

We will be more than glad to arrange a series of Bible studies in your home to be conducted at a time which is convenient for you if you are interested in an honest investigation of God's eternal Word. May we hear from you? (CRS)

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ARE YOU A BUSYBODY?

gation of encouraging and exhorting them to do right. We must teach them the Word of God. Their burdens should be of concern to us and we should bear them. But none of these responsibilities will justify us in being a "busybody" or "meddler" in the affairs of others. (CRS)

Sentence Sermons

If good men do not oppose evil, then evil will triumph.

"He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips." (Proverbs 20:19).

"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." (Proverbs 27:2).

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Proverbs 27:6).

"A man that flattereth his neighbor spreadeth a net for his feet." (Proverbs 29:5)

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