

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, correction, for instruction in righteousness."* 2 Timothy 3:16

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF INSTRUCTION

[Editor's note: The following is a reprint of an article as it appeared in the first issue of THE INSTRUCTOR, January, 1964.]

The author of the Book of Luke wrote to Theophilus that he "**mightest know the certainty of those things**", wherein he had been instructed. We must know God's will in order to be pleasing unto Him. We can only know the certainty of God's will by laying aside the creeds, fables, opinions and commandments of men and receiving instructions from what inspired men have written. Each one of us should have a burning desire to know the certainty of God's will. We should be anxious to receive the teaching of God's grace. (See Titus 2:11-12).

### WHO WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTION?

Let us consider who will receive instruction? Solomon said that "**the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**" (Prov. 1:7). He further declared that "**when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.**" (Prov. 21:11). Since fools despise instructions and the wise receive knowledge when instructed, we should "**hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.**" Instruction has revealed the fact that he who refuses instruction despises his own soul! Solomon also suggested that "**the**

**instruction of fools is folly.**" (Prov. 16:22). Are you wise? If so, you will receive instruction from God's word. If you refuse instruction, you are indeed foolish, and will be lost eternally.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF ONE WHO RECEIVES INSTRUCTION

One who receives the instruction of wisdom will fear the Lord because Solomon said "**the fear of the lord is the instruction of wisdom.**" (Prov. 15:33). The person who receives instruction will not only fear the Lord, but will love knowledge. Prov. 12:1 says that "**Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge, but he that hateth reproof is brutish.**" We should also notice that Solomon said "**He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction, but he that refuseth reproof erreth.**" (Prov. 1:17). Do you love knowledge or do you fear the Lord? Are you in the way of life? If you do not accept instruction of God's word, you have no hope of eternal salvation.

### WHY IS INSTRUCTION IMPORTANT?

Instruction provided by God's grace is important because without it, there is no salvation. It is the grace of God that teaches, that brings salvation. (See Tit. 2:11-12). Solomon said "**He is in the way of life that keepeth**

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### *Editorial . . .*

## OUR 26th YEAR

We have just completed 25 years of publishing THE INSTRUCTOR. In the first issue, dated January, 1964, we had an editorial entitled, THE PURPOSE OF THE INSTRUCTOR. With a change of address of our meeting place, here is that article.

“Each endeavor in which a local church engages, should serve the cause of truth and righteousness. No doubt, it is the responsibility of each congregation to instruct both saint and sinner in the way of truth. Christians, individually, also have the responsibility of teaching others. The truth may be sounded out by a congregation by means of pulpit preaching, house to house preaching, radio and television preaching, the printed page, etc. The church that meets at 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama, is endeavoring to instruct others in righteousness by using different ‘aids’ or ‘methods’ within the bounds of Scriptural authority. Hence, it is our intention to do what we can to instruct others by means of this periodical, THE INSTRUCTOR. Our present aim is to publish THE INSTRUCTOR each month and make it available to all who desire to receive it, to the extent of our ability.

It is not our desire to ‘tell someone off’ or to ‘offend’ anyone. We have no

personal ‘axe to grind’ with anyone. Our primary interest is in knowing and teaching others the truth which is able to make us free. (See John 8:32). THE INSTRUCTOR will be designed to teach aliens the way of salvation and children of God their duties and responsibilities. We will be pleading for genuine faith in God and in Christ as the Son of God. We will be upholding the Scripture as being the inspired word of God! Our lessons will be plain and pointed because of their importance. We will endeavor to be fair and kind in the presentation of truth, but we will not speak to please men but God, who trieth our hearts. (1 Thess. 2:4-5).

It is our desire to be militant against sin wherever it may exist. We will not only point out the errors of denominationalism, but also the erroneous and sinful practices of many members of the Lord’s church. If you find that we are not teaching or practicing the truth, we earnestly urge you to call it to our attention and point out by the Scripture wherein we err. You will be our friend by so doing.

If you did not request this paper, it is being sent to you because someone else is interested in you and requested that it be sent to you. However, we have no desire to ‘force’ this paper on anyone. If you do not wish to receive it each month, please write and tell us of your desire, and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

If you know of others who might benefit by reading THE INSTRUCTOR each month, please send us their names and addresses and we’ll be glad to put them on our mailing list, to the extent of our ability.”

(CRS)

[EDITOR’S NOTES: The sentiments expressed in that article are our present sentiments. Our purpose now in publishing THE INSTRUCTOR is the same as then although now we may be more keenly aware of the urgency in teaching others and the need for

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## OUR 26TH YEAR

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militancy against sin and error when and wherever they may raise their ugly heads.

We have seen many changes in the past quarter of a century. Those changes have affected and continue to affect the lives of all of us. Not only have we seen changes in technology, styles, fashions, etc., but also in attitudes of many regarding truth, morals and spiritual values. Many denominational people do not seem to be **as concerned** about learning the truth **as revealed in the Scriptures** although they give lip service to the idea that we must follow the Bible.

Many brethren are infected with materialism. An attitude of softness and compromise exists in the hearts of some. It is not popular to rebuke sin and expose error. Those who "remove" the "sheep's clothing" and expose the "ravaging wolves" should be commended and encouraged. However, it is not uncommon for them to be attacked and the "wolves" allowed to run free. (See Matthew 7: 15-20; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Tit. 1:13-14).

A large number of brethren have gone much farther from the truth in several areas than I anticipated. Although 25 years ago many churches contributed to **human benevolent institutions** and "**sponsoring church**" arrangements (without **Scriptural authority** — see Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9 & James 2:12), most of them did NOT arrange and provide facilities for various social, recreational and entertainment projects and activities. Neither did they make donations to so-called "Christian Schools." **But they do now! THEY HAVE CHANGED!** However, **TRUTH HAS NOT CHANGED!** There is **no more authority** for such today than there was 25 years ago!

When I debated Guy N. Woods (with W. L. Totty moderating for him) in

1962, it was NOT popular at all for churches to make donations to "Christian Schools" or to arrange and provide facilities for social, recreational and entertainment programs. Most brethren like Woods did NOT believe that such activities were Scriptural. But through the years they silenced their opposition to such and in many cases they began participating in and promoting such projects.

Churches who do **not** condone such as the above mentioned projects are "labeled" and "criticized." However we must *never* compromise the **truth** regardless of how unpopular it becomes.

Let us NEVER forget that **TRUTH IS NARROW** and it does **not** change from one generation to another. People change, but **truth does not change!**

We appreciate those who have read and studied the articles that have appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR. We are grateful to those who have written or have talked to us about THE INSTRUCTOR. Some have questioned us. Others have criticized us. A few have commended our efforts. We have tried to profit from the criticisms made to us and we have been encouraged by those who have commended us. Keep it up!

We thank God and give Him praise for any good that has been accomplished through our efforts. It is **God who gives the "increase."** We are **nothing**.

**As we begin our 26th year of publishing THE INSTRUCTOR, we pray to God to forgive us of our past mistakes. We ask Him to strengthen us and to give us wisdom as we endeavor to glorify Him in our lives and in teaching others His Word! We must seek to please Him before Whom we must appear and to Whom we must give an account of our actions, words and thoughts.**

(CRS)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF INSTRUCTION

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**instruction.**" The wisdom that we receive from instruction and knowledge is more valuable than silver and choice gold! How do you value knowledge and wisdom? Are you willing to be instructed in the way of the Lord? If you hunger and thirst after righteousness, you will be filled.

Since faith cometh by hearing God's word, (Rom. 10:17), one cannot have faith without receiving instruction. Therefore one must receive instruction in order to have faith to obey Christ and be saved.

Are you lost? If so, you can be saved today by receiving and obeying the instruction of the Scripture. An alien sinner must believe the gospel, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ, and be baptized in water in order to be saved. (See Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27). Have you done this? If not, you are lost! Why not receive instruction and obey God today?

An erring child of God must repent, confess his sins, and pray in order to receive forgiveness. (See Act. 8:22-23; James 5:16; 1 John 1:10). Are you a child of God who is unfaithful? If so, be wise and receive life by receiving and obeying divine instruction!

(CRS)

## SUTTON-FROST DEBATES

**First:** Jan. 9, 10, 12, 13, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. at 1107 Hwy. 431 South in Albertville, Alabama.

**Second:** Feb. 20, 21, 23, 24, 1989 at 7:30 p.m. U.M.W.A. building in Berry, Alabama.

The **MODE** (Action) of Baptism will be discussed in both debates.

**ALL ARE INVITED!**

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

No one on his death bed ever repented of being a Christian.

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When a man concludes that he is utterly useless, he is.

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People who do a lot of kneeling don't do much lying.

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Poverty of character is far worse than poverty of purse.

\* \* \* \* \*

To truly achieve one must truly believe.

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