

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 29

JANUARY, 1992

Number 1

AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR — 1992!

As the new year begins, and as we reflect on 1991 that has past, we are exceedingly grateful to God for the many wonderful blessings we have received from His bountiful hand. He has given to us **"life, and breath, and all things."** It is **"in him we live, and move, and have our being."** He is the provider of all of our physical blessings and He is the source of all spiritual blessings available to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. (See Acts 17:24-28; James 1:17; Eph. 1:3).

In our judgment, in 1991 the church here reached a milestone in its existence and work when **bishops** (elders) and **deacons** were appointed. This is the first time in its history that the congregation has had **bishops** (elders) and **deacons**. **Lionel Gary, G. C. Pack** and **Carrol Ray Sutton** were appointed to serve as **bishops** (elders) and **Rex Henson, Mike Pack** and **Gerald White** were selected and appointed to serve as **deacons**. We pray that these men will continue to increase in knowledge and grow in faith and that God will give each of them wisdom, courage and strength as they endeavor to fulfill their responsibilities.

The church here continues to **daily** preach the gospel over WBSA radio, 1300 on the AM dial. This program began more than 30 years ago. We also place an article in The Sand Mountain Reporter (a local newspaper) each week. We have just completed our 28th year of publishing THE INSTRUCTOR. We are presently mailing about 5,000 copies each month.

As we begin 1992, we continue to preach Christ. We emphasize the need of appealing to the Scriptures as our **complete** standard of authority in spiritual matters. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2:12) We continue to plea with brethren to **"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** (Jude 3). We are urging Christians to **"be not conformed to this world"** but to **be "transformed."** (Cf. Rom 12:1-2). We are pleading with brethren to exercise **"discipline"** when situations arise that demand such in view of the Scriptures. We continue to teach and exhort sinners to **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ"** and to **"Repent, and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins"** in order to be

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(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.
Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

SOME SINS OF DISPOSITION OR ATTITUDE (No. 5)

In our past studies we have discussed the sins of HATRED, EVIL SURMISINGS, INGRATITUDE, ENVY AND MURMURING. Let us now continue our study of some sins of disposition or attitude.

PRIDE

VI. PRIDE. The word "**pride**" is found in the Scriptures more than 45 times. Most (if not all) of the time it is suggestive of a sinful disposition.

WHAT IS PRIDE?

According to **Webster's New World Dictionary**, Elem. Ed., "**pride**" is sometimes used to mean "**proper respect for oneself: dignity; self-respect.**" In this sense, **pride** is to be desired. As used generally in the Bible, **pride** is used in an evil sense. It means "**the quality or state of being proud: as . . . inordinate self-esteem: conceit. . .**" (**Webster's 7th N.C. Dictionary**) It is an over-inflated feeling of self-importance. It is haughtiness and arrogance.

PRIDE IS SIN

Proverbs 21:4 says: "**An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.**" In Mark 7:20-23 Jesus mentions "**pride**" along with a number of other things and then

says, "**All these EVIL things come from within, and defile the man.**" We also learn from this passage that "**pride**" comes out of the heart of men.

God hates pride! Solomon declared that "**The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.**" (Prov. 8:13). A **proud look** is one of the six things that God hates, and one of the seven things that are an abomination unto him. (See Prov. 6:16-19).

The sin of **pride** (being proud) is one of the sins that Paul said would cause "**perilous times**" in the last days. (cf. 2 Tim. 3:1-7).

A long time ago Solomon declared that "**Everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.**" (Prov. 16:5).

EXAMPLES OF PRIDE

1. **NEBUCHADNEZZER**, King of Babylon, is an example of **pride**. (Read Daniel 4:24-37 and Daniel 5:17-23).

2. **Belshazzar**, son of Nebuchadnezzar. (Read Daniel 5:17-31).

3. **The Pharisee** in Luke 18:9-14. It seems that this Pharisee was self-righteous and **proud**.

4. **Herod**, King of Judea. We learn from Acts 12:20-23 that "**upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration . . . And the people gave a shout saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.**"

5. **Among the disciples**. On at least two different occasions the disciples "**disputed**" or had "**a strife**" among themselves as to which of them "**should be accounted the greatest.**" (Cf. Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48 and Luke 22:24-30). In John 13: 4-17 Jesus taught his disciples a lesson on humility (against pride) by washing

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their dirty feet and wiping them with a towel. NOTE: Many today are reaching for the "top," but they are not reaching for the "towel."

PRIDE CAUSES PROBLEMS

Here are some of the problems that pride may cause.

1. **It may cause one to persecute the poor!** The Psalmist said: "The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: . . ." (Psalms 10:2).

2. **It will cause one not to seek after God!** The Psalmist said: "The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."

3. **It causes contention!** We learn from Proverbs 13:10 that "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well-advised is wisdom."

4. **It will prevent conversion!** In Matthew 18:1-4 when the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven," Jesus set a little child in the midst of them and said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

5. **Pride ("the pride of life") may cause one to live beyond his means!** (Cf. 1 John 2:15-17). Many people will buy things they do not need, with money they do not have, to impress others. We must be honest, paying our debts and meeting our obligations. The following passages emphasize this fact.

(a) Romans 13:8 - "Owe no man anything, but to love one another."

(b) Romans 12:17 - ". . . Provide things honest in the sight of all men."

(c) 2 Cor. 8:21 - "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

(d) Psalms 37:21 - "The wicked borroweth and payeth not again: but the righteous showeth mercy and giveth."

The world does NOT owe us the comforts and luxuries of life. Someone has said that "When one's outgo exceeds his income, his upkeep will become his downfall."

6. **It will cause one to fall and be destroyed!** Solomon declared that "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." (Prov. 16:18)

VARIOUS FORMS OF PRIDE

1. **Pride of material things!** This pride causes one to trust in material possessions, talking of self (me, my and mine) and forgetting that all material blessings come from God. In 1 Chron. 29:12 David said to God: "Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all." The Psalmist said: ". . . If riches increase, set not your heart upon them." (Psalms 62:10). We should recognize God as the giver of every good and perfect gift. (cf. James 1:17). NOTE: WE should not take pride (in an evil sense) in material things. Neither should we be proud of our poverty!

2. **Intellectual pride!** Paul said: ". . . Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." (1 Cor. 8:1-2). A study of 1 Cor. 1:19-29; Rom. 1:22; Prov. 16:25 and Rom 12:16 should impress us with the futility and sin of intellectual pride.

3. **Social pride!** This pride may manifest itself in class, racial or caste arrogance. It may cause one to refuse to (or with reluctance) speak to or associate with a person who is illiterate, or poor, or shabbily dressed or has a menial occupation. (Please study James 2:1-9; (Luke 6:31).

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4. **Spiritual pride!** The Pharisee in Luke 18:9-14 and the scribes in Mark 12:38-40 were guilty of this kind of pride. It causes one to trust in his **own** virtues, his traditional religion (although it is not in harmony with God's revelation) or what is accepted by the majority rather than the blood of Jesus Christ, the gospel and the grace of God as revealed in the Scriptures. (See Mt. 26:28; Rom. 1:16; Titus 2:11-12; Mk. 16:15-16).

To rid ourselves of the evil of pride we must unconditionally surrender our will and humbly submit to the will of the Father which is in heaven.

(CRS)

(To be continued)

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washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. (Cf. Acts 16:30-34; Acts 2:36-42; Rev. 1:5). For any "increase" God is to be praised!

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; . . ."
(Rom. 13:12-13) (CRS)

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Thanks!

PLEASE BE PATIENT with us if you have requested a bound volume of the last nine years of THE INSTRUCTOR. They are not ready yet.
Thanks!

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

The person who rows the boat usually does not have enough time to rock it.

* * * * *

If you don't get everything you want, think of the things you don't get that you don't want.

* * * * *

In fishing for men there is no closed season.

* * * * *

Some folks give according to their means, and others according to their meanness.

* * * * *

It takes a strong constitution to withstand repeated attacks of prosperity.

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