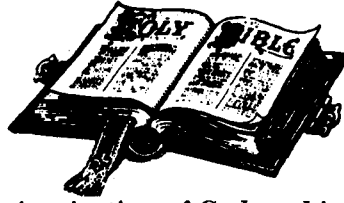


THE INSTRUCTOR



“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 30

JANUARY, 1993

Number 1

ANGELS — THEIR WORK (In the Old Testament)

As revealed in the Scriptures, the work of angels in prior dispensations may be basically summed up as follows.

1. **God through angels appeared unto men and women to give instructions, promises, make announcements, etc.** Consider Hagar in Gen. 16:7-12 & 21:17-18; Abraham in Gen. 22; Jacob in Gen. 31:11; 28:10-15; 32:1-2, 24-32 & Hos. 12:2-5; Moses in Exo. 3:2; Balaam in Num. 22:22-25; Israelites in Judges 2:1-5; Gideon in Judges 6; Manoah's wife & Manoah in Judges 13; Elijah in 1 Kings 1 & 2 Kings 1; Zechariah in Zech. 12-6; Zecharias in Luke 1; Mary in Luke 1:26-38; Joseph in Mt. 1 & 2:13, 19; Shepherds in Luke 2:8-15 and Those who came to the tomb of Jesus early on the first day of the week in Mt. 28:1-8; Mk. 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10 & John 20:1-18.
2. **God sent an angel before the Israelites as they journeyed toward Canaan.** (See Exo. 14:19; 33:2 & Judges 2:1).
3. **Angels played a part in the giving of the law to Israel.** (See Acts 7:53 & Gal. 3:19).
4. **God used angels to smite and destroy men.** Consider the

seventy thousand men in 2 Sam. 24 & 1 Chron. 21 and one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrians in 2 Kings 19:35 & Isaiah 37:36. Also see Psa. 35:5-6.

5. **Michael (the arch-angel) disputed with the devil about the body of Moses.** (See Jude 9).

6. **God used angels to deliver men from danger.** Consider Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego in Daniel 3:28 and Daniel in Daniel 6:22.

7. **During His personal ministry on earth angels ministered to Jesus, strengthening Him.** (See Mt. 4:11; Mk. 1:13 and Luke 22:43).

8. **“The angel of the Lord” removed the stone from the door of the tomb of Jesus.** (See Mt. 28:2).

9. **Angels were told to “Praise” the Lord.** (See Psalms 148:1-2).

10. **A long time ago, David said: “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”** (Psalms 34:7)

We should accept what the Scriptures teach about angels, but should not go beyond what God hath spoken. (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(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.

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unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? . . . Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, . . .”

Eph. 5:11-12 — “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things done of them in secret.”

Also read Eph. 5:25-27.

2. We must forsake father, mother, wife, children, etc. (Lk. 14:36).

3. We must deny self and forsake all in order to be a true disciple of Christ! (See Luke 9:23; 14:33 & Titus 2:11-12).

4. We must be honest and pay our debts! (See Romans 12:17; 13:8)

5. We must treat others properly! (See Luke 6:31 & Rom. 12:19-20)

6. We must not love the world nor practice the sinful things of the world! John admonished: “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. . .” (1 John 2:15-17). We must keep ourselves “unspotted from the world” according to James 1:27. James informs us that those who have “friendship” with the world are the enemies of God. (See 4:4).

Here are some things “of the world” that Christians should avoid:

(1) **Fornication.** (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 10:8; 6:9-21 & 1 Thess. 4:3-5).

(2) **Drunkenness.** (Cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21 & Eph. 5:18).

(3) **Drinking intoxicants,** even socially which may lead to drunkenness. (Cf. Prov. 20:1; 1 Pet. 4:3 & 1 Thess 5:22).

(4) **Dancing** which is lasciviousness. (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 13:13; 1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:2 & 1 Tim. 4:12).

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Editorial . . .

OUR PLEA (Concluded)

We pointed out in our past studies that **Christians are pleading for men to go back to the Bible, to accept the authority of Christ, to have faith in Christ, to obey Christ, to restore New Testament teaching and practice, to restore Jesus Christ to His exalted place of pre-eminence and to accept and honor the name of Christ!**

Let us continue our discussion of OUR PLEA.

HOLY LIVES

VIII. WE ARE PLEADING WITH OTHERS TO LIVE HOLY LIVES ! To have the proper impact upon others it is essential that Christians “**live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.**” (Titus 2:11-12). Christians have been “**called out**” of the world of darkness into light. (See 1 Pet. 2:9). We have been delivered from the power of darkness and “**translated into the kingdom of his dear Son.**” (Col. 1:13). Jesus declared: “**My kingdom is not of this world.** . . .” (John 18:36).

1. **We are to be a separate people!** The following passages indicate that we must be separate and not think, speak and do as those who live in darkness think, speak and do.

2 Co. 6:14-17 — “**Be ye not unequally yoked together with**

OUR PLEA

(Continued from page 2)

(5) **Lying.** (Cf. Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9 & Rev. 21:8).

(6) **Gambling.** (Cf. Lk. 6:31; Gal. 5:19-21 & Rom. 12:17).

(7) **Evils of modern movies.** (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Thess. 5:22 & 1 Tim. 4:12).

(8) **Immodest dress,** (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:9 & Gal. 5:19-21).

(9) **Swearing.** (Cf. Mt. 5:33-37 & James 5:12).

(10) **Judging by appearance.** (Cf. John 7:24; also see Mt. 7:1-5).

(11) **Sins of the tongue.** (Gossip, blasphemy, cursing, railing, false accusation, filthy talk, etc. (Cf. James 3:2-10; Prov. 13:3; 17:27; 18:8; 20:19; 21:23; 26:22 & Mt. 12:37).

(12) **Malice, hypocrisy, envy, etc.** (1 Peter 2:1-2)

NOTE: Can you picture the Son of God engaging in any of the above or any other evil?

7. Our speech must be pure! Some among the people of God lie, swear, curse and tell filthy jokes. The apostle Paul said: "**Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: . . .**" and "**Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**" (Eph. 4:25, 29).

To keep our speech pure we must keep our thoughts pure. We must be pure in heart. (Cf. Prov. 23:7; 4:23; Mt. 5:8.)

In judgment, our words can either save us or condemn us (See Mt. 12:37). Like the psalmist, we should say: "**Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.**" (Psalms 19:14).

8. We must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness! (See Mt. 6:33). To seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness means we must recognize our obligations to the King are above

all other relationships and that we will seek above all things to do God's Will! NOTE: This means we will put the Lord's will first in our lives!

9. We must be truthful, honest, merciful and temperate! (See Eph. 4:25; Rom. 12:19; Matt. 5:7 & 2 Peter 1:5-11).

10. We must be humble, kind and forgiving! (See James 4:10; Eph. 4:32).

Conscientious Christians are sincerely endeavoring to practice holiness and we are heartily pleading for men and women everywhere to be pure in heart and holy in life. (Cf. Mt. 5:8 & 1 Peter 1:15-16).

UNITY

IX. WE ARE PLEADING FOR UNITY OF ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST! Although division is a work of the flesh, is deplorable and will result in eternal damnation, it often exists among professed followers of Christ. Division is condemned in such passages as Gal. 5:19-21; Romans 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 1:10 and 1 Cor. 3:3.

In John 10:16 Jesus foretold that later there would be "**one fold and one shepherd.**" In His prayer to the Father in John 17:20-23 Jesus prayed for unity of all believers in Him. We learn from Eph. 2:13-18 that Jesus broke down the wall of partition between the Jews and Gentiles that they would be "**one**". The death of Jesus on the cross made this reconciliation "**unto God in one body**" possible. Both Jews and Gentiles could be at peace with God and with each other! Thus we see that Jesus not only prayed for but also died for "**unity**" of believers!

Writing to believers Paul declared ". . . for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal. 3:28). To the saints at Ephesus Paul exhorted: "**Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**" (4:3) In. 1 Cor. 1:10 Paul admonished saints to "**speak the same thing**" and "**be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.**"

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OUR THIRTIETH YEAR BEGINS

The Lord has been good to us. He has richly blessed the church at East Albertville. We have been blessed as individuals as well as collectively or as a group. Although, through the year, a number of supposedly "faithful brethren" have "bad mouthed" us and in some cases have made outright **false** accusations against us, the church continues to grow in knowledge of God's Word and increase in faith and in its efforts to "preach the gospel" abroad as well as at home and near by.

As we begin our **thirtieth year** in publishing THE INSTRUCTOR we do so with faith, zeal and determination to teach the truth of God "... **publicly and from house to house.**" It is our intention to be both **positive and negative** in our efforts to teach God's Word! We have **no** apologies for this since our Lord and **inspired men set the example for us to follow!** We **praise God for any increase that may come!**

(CRS)

OUR PLEA

(Continued from page 3)

To have true unity all believers must accept God's Word as the standard of right and wrong in all matters. Each one must have a **sincere desire to learn the truth and be a genuine lover of truth.** **Truth** as revealed in the Scriptures must be accepted. No one should **loose** where God has **bound!** Neither should anyone **bind** where God has not bound!

Truth CAN be understood!(See Psa. 119:130; Eph. 3:2-5; Mt. 24:15; Eph. 5:17 and 2 Tim. 2:7). NOTE: Peter mentioned the fact that Paul wrote "**some things HARD to be understood.**" (2 Pet. 3:16). He did **not** say "impossible to be understood." **Truth** is the only basis for true unity of believers! **All who desire, love and obey the truth** are deeply concerned about UNITY of all believers. In fact, **we are pleading for unity!**

Friends, neighbors and brethren: Will you accept those things for which we are pleading?

(CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Only what we have wrought into our character during life can we take with us.

* * * * *

"Christianity" is a battle, not merely a dream.

* * * * *

If you would lift me you must be on higher ground. — **Emerson**

* * * * *

There is no education like adversity.

* * * * *

Self conquest is the greatest of victories. — **Plato**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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