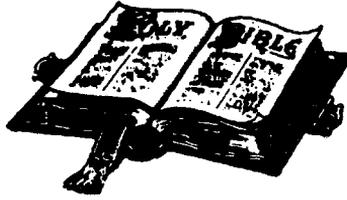


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 1

CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS (No.4)

As we continue our study of CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS let us remember that as **builders** we are responsible for **how** we build and **what** we build. To properly build, we must follow the principles set forth in the Scriptures. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; James 1:25; 2:12). Not only should we build **good names, good solid families and good influences**, but we should also build:

4. **LASTING FRIENDSHIPS?** A friend is **"one attached to another by affection or esteem"** according to WEBSTER'S SEVENTH NEW COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY. We should desire and endeavor to build good, true friendships. Friends are very valuable. We should count our friends as treasures.

We should not forsake our friends nor our father's friends. Proverbs 27:10 says: **"Thine own friend, and thy father's friend forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of calamity; for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off."** NOTE: Although we should not forsake our friends, neither should we **uphold** our friends when they are

teaching error or living in sin! We must not **"be partaker of other men's sins."** We must **"keep"** ourselves **"pure"**! (See 1 Tim. 5:22). We are to **"...Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."** (Eph. 5:11; Also see 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 John 9-11).

True friends stand with us in sorrow as well as in joy! True friends will stand with us in adversities, afflictions, disappointments and heartaches as well as in prosperity, laughter and happiness! We learn from Proverbs 17:17 that **"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."**

The sweetness of a man's friend **by hearty counsel rejoices the heart!** Solomon said: **"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."**

Friendships do not just happen. They must be built. They must be carefully cultivated. To have friends we must be friendly. Solomon said: **"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother."** (Proverbs 18:24).

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial ...

THE INSTRUCTOR IS 32 YEARS OLD

The Instructor had a small beginning in January, 1964. It has grown to the point that now 6500 copies are being printed each month. Nearly 5,000 copies are being mailed each month. **The Instructor** goes into nearly every state in the United States and into several foreign countries.

Through the years we have heard of several who first became interested in **truth** by reading **The Instructor**. Interest in it increases and requests for it continues to grow.

As we have published **The Instructor** each month (from the very first issue) teaching **truth** has been our primary goal. We have endeavored to teach the **truth** in a "balanced" way. No Scriptural subject has been intentionally avoided. Although we may have emphasized the teaching on some subjects more than others, we have tried to write articles that would be of profit to anyone who might read them. As we prepared each issue, it has been our intention to have at least one article that would instruct those out of Christ in some fundamental principles of **truth** and to have at least

one article that would inform and remind Christians of some **truth** we need to know in order to be built up in **the faith**. No subject (discussed in the Scriptures) has been "off-limits". The reason for this is because people (including us) **NEED "all the counsel of God"** and we must teach it in order to be "**pure from the blood of all men.**" "See Acts 20:26-27). We have a grave responsibility to give "**warning**" to both the wicked and the righteous! Otherwise, their "**blood**" may be required of us! (See Ezekiel 3:17-21). We dare **not** take this responsibility lightly!

It has **not** been our purpose to impress or please men. We have endeavored to please **God**, "**which trieth our hearts.**" (Cf. Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:2). For any good that may have been accomplished, we give God the praise and glory! We have tried to "**plant**" and "**water**" but it is "**God that giveth the increase.**" (See 1 Cor. 3:6-7).

As we begin our 33rd year of publishing **The Instructor**, we do so with anticipation and optimism. None of us knows what the future holds, but we (who are Christians) know **Who** holds the future! All of us are one year nearer death, the resurrection and the judgment than we were last year. we should be **walking "worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."** (See Col. 1:10). As we increase in knowledge, we should grow in faith!

If the Lord wills, and we should live, we will continue to allow the **teaching of truth** to be our primary goal in the publishing of **The Instructor**. As in the past, our purpose will not be to impress or please men, but to please God, **Who "trieth our hearts."** We will emphasize **what the SCRIPTURES teach.**

TEN CASES OF CONVERSION

In the Book of Acts we have the record of **ten cases of conversion** given in some detail. They are: (1) **Jews on the day of Pentecost** in Acts 2. (2) **Samaritans** in Acts 8:5-12. (3) **Simon** in Acts 8:13. (4) **The eunuch of Ethiopia** in Acts 8:26-39. (5) **Saul** in Acts 9, 22 & 23. (6) **Cornelius** in Acts 10 & 11. (7) **Lydia** in Acts 16:14-15. (8) **The jailer in Phillippi** in Acts 16:25-34. (9) **The Corinthians** in Acts 18:8 and, (10) **The Ephesians** in Acts 19:1-6.

Please study the above mentioned **cases of conversion** and observe the following facts.

1. The **preaching** (or teaching) of the **gospel** is sometimes specifically mentioned but not in **every case**.

(2) **Hearing** is sometimes specifically mentioned, but not in **every case**.

(3) **Faith** (or belief) is sometimes mentioned, but not in **every case**.

(4) **Repentance** is sometimes mentioned, but not in **every case**.

(5) **Confession** is referred to in one case.

(6) **Baptism** is specifically mentioned in **every one of those ten cases of conversion!**

Doesn't it strike you very strange that the **ONLY thing** that is specifically mentioned **every time** is the **very thing (baptism)** that most denominational preachers say is **not ESSENTIAL** to salvation?

The fact that **preaching, hearing, faith, repentance and confession** are **NOT** specifically mentioned **every time** does **NOT** mean that each one of them is **NOT essential** to salvation. In fact, the very fact that they **ARE** mentioned at least **once** indicates that they **all ARE essential to salvation!**

When Jesus commissioned His apostles to **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"**, He also declared: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:15-16). Enough said!

(CRS)

HOW MANY CHURCHES ARE THERE?

The question, **"How many churches are there?"** is sometimes asked. If a person is **asking** how many **human churches** (or **denominations**) are there, we should reply: **There are many!** However, if a person is inquiring as to how many churches **did God purpose, plan and/or build**, the answer would be: **He purposed and built only ONE church** (universally)! A serious consideration of the following passages should convince us of that **truth**.

1. In John 10:16 Jesus said (prophetically): **"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd."** NOTE: **"One fold!"**

2. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said: **"...And upon this rock I will build my church** (singular church, not plural churches – CRS)." Universally speaking, Jesus built **only ONE church!**

3. The apostle Paul said: **"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."** (Romans 12:4-5).

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (1 Cor. 12:13).

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all,..." (Eph. 4:4-6).

4. Paul also said: **"And he (Christ – CRS) is the head of the body, the church."** (Co.. 1:18).

NOTE: Since there is **ONE body** and the body is the church, it necessarily follows that **there is only ONE CHURCH!** That settles it!

(CRS)

(Continued from page 2)

**THE INSTRUCTOR IS
32 YEARS OLD**

We will seek to instruct and inform both sinners and saints in **“the way of truth.”** (See Psalm 118:30; 2 Peter 2:2). At times, we will point out and expose error. This is in keeping with the teaching in 1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21; Rev. 2:2; and 2 Tim. 4:1-4). We will endeavor to **“...Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”** (Jude 3). We will strive to **“Prove all things”** and **“hold fast that which is good”**. (1 Thess. 5:21). We ask God to give us wisdom and courage as we endeavor to serve Him, **“holding faith and a good conscience.”**

(CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS

We should carefully choose our close friends. Our choices should be based on traits of good character such as honesty, morality, industry, trustworthy, etc. We should not choose certain people! (Cf. Proverbs 22:24).

We should not allow whisperers (or others) to separate us from our friends. (Cf. Prov. 16:28). We should pray for our friends.

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend: but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.” (Prov. 27:6).

Let each of us earnestly endeavor to build lasting friendships!

(CRS)

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

To be genuinely happy, you must **give**, and **forgive!**

* * * * *

Blaming others for your sins will **not** reduce **the wages of your sins!**

* * * * *

In life, as in a mirror, we never get more out of it than we put into it.

* * * * *

There are a lot more counterfeit men in this country than there is counterfeit money!

* * * * *

Doubt makes the mountain that faith can move!

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