

THE INSTRUCTOR



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

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FORGIVE AND YE SHALL LIVE

“. . . but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matt. 5:39).

Why did Jesus tell us to turn the other cheek? For one thing, it is probably the most effective way to induce our enemy to stop pummeling us. Not many men will strike twice if there is no resistance to the first blow.

By turning the other cheek we not only greatly minimize the possibility of receiving a second blow, but we neutralize the worst of the damage that might be done to us by the first blow.

Anger, resentment and a desire for revenge are certainly among the major causes of disease. If we do not resent a blow, an insult or an injury of any kind received at the hands of another, the probabilities are that it will do us little harm. On the other hand, if we become angry, give vent to our resentment and seek revenge, we are letting loose within our bodies the forces of evil that can do us great harm. Tension and malice will injure us far more than the possible second blow, added slight or insult we might receive by turning the other cheek.

Forgiveness is not only good for ourselves but it is quite likely to neutralize the aggressive tendencies of our

enemy. It may cast out of him the devils of anger or malice and restore him to sanity and health. So influencing a fellow human being is one of the major satisfactions of life.

To nurture evil thoughts and desires for vengeance is to make ourselves more easily susceptible to mental and physical illness of many kinds. To forgive often seems hard but it is the quickest way to end trouble and the certain way to minimize whatever injuries we may have received. To forgive is good for the forgiven but its major blessing falls on the forgiver.

To hate is to nurture within us the seeds of death! To forgive is to cause more abundant life to spring up within us. He who wishes to prolong his life on earth and to avoid the death of his soul must learn to FORGIVE AND LIVE!

—Author Unknown but article was taken from THE HOME VISITOR, 3-19-59

PROVERBS 20:17—"Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel."

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Editorial . . .

The Attitude of Jesus Toward Sin

Much is said about dispositions and attitudes. Attitudes are very important because attitudes determine conduct. Our conduct is certainly important because our eternal destiny is determined by conduct.

Many people represent Christ as meek and lowly but fail to show other aspects of his character. They seem to think that Jesus Christ was a "soft-soaping" compromiser. Although Jesus was indeed meek and lowly, His attitude toward sin was not one of compromise and weakness. Let us now consider the attitude of Jesus toward sin.

JESUS RESISTED EVIL

In Matt. 4:1-11 there is a record of the temptation of Jesus by the devil. On each of the three specific counts mentioned Jesus replied by saying, "It is written." He resisted temptation by appealing to the Word of God. We learn from Heb. 4:15 that He "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." On one occasion when Jesus found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money, He showed His displeasure by making a scourge of small cords and driving them all out of the temple. He "poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables." He said: "Take these things hence;

make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." (See John 2:13-17). We should "resist the devil" and he will flee from us. (See James 4:7). Our resistance to the devil should be "steadfast in the faith." (See 1 Pet. 5:8-9). Yes, Jesus not only did not engage in evil, but he openly and vigorously resisted sin!

ANGERED BECAUSE OF SIN

"And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other." (Mark 3:1-6). Observe the fact that Jesus "LOOKED ROUND ABOUT ON THEM WITH ANGER, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts." His soul was stirred to righteous indignation by sin. He hated sin! We learn from Prov. 13:5 that "a righteous man hateth lying . . ." Israel of old was commanded to "hate the evil, and love the good . . ." (Amos 5:15). The psalmist said in Psa. 119:113 "I hate vain thoughts . . ." and in Psa. 119:104 he said: "Through thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way . . ." We learn from Eph. 4:26 that we should not sin although we may become angry. There may be times when we would do well to be angered because of sin, but we may mistake the times.

JESUS CONDEMNED SIN

In Matt. 26:24 Jesus said, ". . . woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed . . ." Luke tells us in 17:1-2 that Jesus condemned those who would cause others to sin. In Luke 17:3 Jesus

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I SAW BOOZE IN ACTION

I saw a baby—its tender skin bruised and bloody; its golden curls matted with dirt and blood — one tiny jaw crushed to a pulp. A wee hand hanging limp—just a ball of flesh with broken bones protruding against a pair of pink rompers, soiled now with great splotches of muddy blood.

White-robed hospital attendants picked up the little mangled form and gently placed it on a stretcher. It quivered and a low moan of anguish came from those baby lips once perfectly shaped and now bruised and disfigured.

Again they lifted a form from the ground—a sort of huddled and shapeless bundle. It was the baby's mother, broken, mangled, and crumpled, no sign of life there. The card on her bosom read, "Morgue".

Many feet away lay the father, still alive and screaming with pain—face all cut by windshield glass, one eye completely out of the socket and hanging by a string; legs a shapeless mass, blood gushing from his mouth. He stopped screaming and called out in his agony: "My wife! My children!" Then fell back into merciful unconsciousness. In the crowd of people, held back by kindly hands, a small boy sobbed and shrieked: "Daddy! Mama! Mama!"

Two state policemen held a wobbly drunken wretch, reeking with fumes, between them. "Wha' happen'?" he blubbered. "I only had a coupla drinks."

Sirens screamed and the crowd made way for the ambulance which disappeared quickly on its way to the hospital and morgue. Policemen placed the four-year-old, hysterical boy in a car and drove off with him yet crying and plaintively calling for his parents. A wrecking crew with a huge crane began removal of two badly smashed automobiles. On the pavement lay bits of scattered glass, a broken whiskey

(Continued in next column)

It's Just A Matter Of Wanting To

A man can get out of bed at three o'clock on Saturday morning to go fishing, but when you talk to him about Sunday morning Bible classes, he can't get up that early on Sunday! WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A man can go a hundred miles on Friday night to a ball game but is too tired to get out for the worship on Sunday and Wednesday nights! WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A man can take his family to a circus and spend considerable money but can't afford to give more than a dollar to the Lord! WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A man can be on the membership committee at the civic club and canvass among his friends for prospective members but can't make the right approach when asked to do personal work for the Lord! WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

A man can take an aspirin and go to work despite an annoying headache, but a similar headache is considered a good reason for missing the worship. WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

—Author unknown but article was taken from GOSPEL DIGEST.

(Continued from left column)

I SAW BOOZE IN ACTION!

bottle—here and there a pool of blood.

A child was an orphan. Three graves would be dug. A drunken driver would receive a light fine. Liquor stores (and bootleggers) would continue to sell their hellish brew. Newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations would continue to publish ads urging people to drink more liquor. And even some "Christian" people would continue to stupidly believe that because THEIR drinking was only "social" it hurt no one. Thus they continue to patronize the business that is staining our highways with innocent blood—blood shed by fiendish, drunken drivers, intoxicated with legal (and bootleg) liquor!

(Editor's note: The above touching story was taken from GOSPEL DIGEST where it was taken from BLUE AND WHITE, March-April, 1960.)

(Continued from page 2)

THE ATTITUDE OF JESUS TOWARD SIN Cont'd.

said: ". . . If thy brother trespass against thee rebuke him . . ." We read in John 8:34 that Jesus said: ". . . whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." In Gal. 2: 11-14 the apostle Paul condemned the sin of hypocrisy although it was practiced by the apostle Peter. We read in Mark 6:17 where John condemned adultery although it was practiced by Herod. Surely, to follow Jesus, we, too, must condemn sin!

JESUS DENOUNCED SINNERS

Jesus hated sham and hypocrisy in religion. He fearlessly denounced the Scribes and Pharisees because of their sins. (See Mark 7:1-13 and Matt. 23). He pronounced "woes" upon them and denounced them as hypocrites. He even said unto them: "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23: 33). If we would do our duty, we will endeavor first to be right ourselves and then condemn sin and denounce sinners as did Jesus. (See Matt. 7:5; Rom. 2:1, 21).

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

Really, dear reader, what is YOUR attitude toward sin? Do you sincerely strive to RESIST EVIL? Are you ANGERED because of sin and do you really HATE EVERY FALSE WAY? Are you willing to condemn sin and denounce sinners, and support and encourage those who do? Or do you walk easy and tread lightly and not get "involved" when sin is prevalent and needs your attention? Do you compromise the truth by "justifying the wicked" and "condemning the righteous?" If your attitude toward sin is not like the Saviour's, then do not be hypocritical by claiming to be a true follower of Jesus Christ. YOU shall receive a "just recompense of reward."

(CRS)

PROVERBS 17:15—"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord."

Sentence Sermons

Many people intend to turn to the Lord at the eleventh hour, but the sad thing is that they often die at 10:30.

There is too much "I think so" and not enough "God said so" in modern "religion."

The church is fairly well supplied with conductors. It shows a shortage of engineers, but an overplus of brakemen.

A boy begins to smoke to show he's a man. After 20 or 30 years he tries to stop with the same objective.

Giving does not impoverish us in the service of our Maker; neither does withholding enrich us.

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