

# 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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## FIVE WAYS TO DISOBEY GOD

The faithful child of God never seeks ways by which he can disobey God. Yet the Bible indicates different manners in which God may be disobeyed. It might help us to avoid some pitfalls of apostasy to reflect on the ways in which God is disobeyed.

### 1. BY DOING WHAT IS FORBIDDEN

(Gen. 2:16; 3:6). Adam and Eve, in eating of the forbidden fruit, transgressed or violated the will of God. We refer to this kind of sin as a sin of commission. They committed an act which God specifically had prohibited. Men today often do exactly what He has forbidden.

### 2. BY REFUSING TO DO WHAT GOD HAS COMMANDED.

(James 4:17; Luke 7:30; Heb. 10:25). The Pharisees and lawyers in Luke 7:30 rejected the counsel of God on baptism. They therefore committed a sin of omission. James states that when one knows to do good and does it not, to him it is sin. One can do nothing and be sent to hell for doing nothing, for God has made demands upon us.

### 3. BY ADDING TO THE WORD OF GOD.

(Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18). God states

that if one adds unto His word, the plagues written in the word will be added to that person. John declares that "lawlessness" is sin. (1 John 3:4—American Standard Version). Sin, as defined by John, is that which is lawless. Sin is the doing of anything for which there is no law or for which there is no authority.

Men frequently ask, "Where is the Scripture against it?" But John declares that if there is no law for the act under question it is "lawlessness," and lawlessness is sin. To act or to speak where God has not spoken is a sin of presumption. (Num. 15:30; Lev. 10:1-2). When one acts without divine authority, he presumes to speak in His behalf. Such is insolent sin, and is intolerable by God.

John declares that when one goes beyond the doctrine of Christ, he gives up both Christ and God. (2 John 9). Paul therefore insists that we must learn "not to go beyond the things which are written." (1 Cor. 4:6).

### 4. BY TAKING FROM THE WORD OF GOD

(Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:19). To take

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## EDITORIAL.....

### IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (NO. 18)

In an effort to "justify" churches supporting such arrangements as "**The Herald of Truth**", R. W. Gray, editor of the North Broad Bulletin, wrote weekly (and weakly) articles for three months. His approach to the study was negative, adequate evidence to support his claim was lacking and his conclusion was unwarranted and unscriptural. If he could have found ONE SCRIPTURE that AUTHORIZES churches to send money out of their treasuries to a "sponsoring church" to enable it to arrange and oversee a program of teaching that is far beyond its ability to finance, he, no doubt, would have given it. In the event that he knew of such a SCRIPTURE, but simply "forgot" to give it, or since writing his articles he has discovered such a SCRIPTURE, we kindly challenge him to cite the passage!

### WILL HE TELL US?

Since Editor Gray believes that churches may SCRIPTURALLY contribute to "**The Herald of Truth**," we are pleading with him to please cite the SCRIPTURE which indicates that:

1. One church ever solicited or may solicit funds from other churches to do a work to which all churches are equally related.

2. One church ever acted or may act as a "sponsoring church" to receive and disburse funds of other churches.

3. One church ever contributed or may contribute funds to another church to be used in evangelism.

4. One church ever contributed or may contribute funds to another church unless there were or are "poor saints" who needed or need relief in the receiving church.

5. Two or more churches ever pooled or may pool their resources under a group of men (a missionary society), or a group of elders (a sponsoring church) to preach the gospel.

6. Churches of Christ ever contributed or may contribute funds to such an arrangement as "**The Herald of Truth**."

I maintain that editor Gray does NOT know of a SCRIPTURE that authorizes any of the above mentioned practices. I also maintain that NONE of our readers know of such a SCRIPTURE. If you think you know of one, please send it to me and consideration will be given to it.

### CHURCHES MAY COOPERATE

Editor Gray and others imply that we do not believe in "churches cooperating" since we do not believe in their type of "church cooperation." We do NOT believe that churches have a SCRIPTURAL right to cooperate by pooling their resources under a human organization (such as a missionary and benevolent society) or under an eldership of a "sponsoring church" to be disbursed as the society or the "sponsoring church" may direct. When churches act concurrently, they are cooperating. We do believe that churches may cooperate. We DO believe that:

1. Churches may cooperate in relieving the needy saints of another area by acting concurrently in sending funds. (See 1 Cor. 16:1-4; Rom. 15:25-26; 2 Cor. 8 and 9).

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## IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (No. 18)

2. Churches may cooperate in evangelism by paying wages to a gospel preacher. (See 2 Cor. 11:8).

PLEASE OBSERVE: (a) There is NO evidence in either of the cases mentioned of any **human organization** or "sponsoring church" to which funds were contributed by the churches. **Question:** Why would editor Gray (or anyone else) insist that churches have a right to support **human societies** and contribute to "**sponsoring churches**" when **SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY IS LACKING?** (b) 2 **JHON 9 says:** "Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." **Note:** "Whosoever" includes every person. It will be impossible for a church (collectively) to go beyond the doctrine of Christ if every person (individually) "abideth in the doctrine of Christ" as John suggests. The church will never engage in **unauthorized** works unless some one fails to abide in the doctrine of Christ. Please consider 1 Peter 4:11 also.

### IS IT RIGHT FOR CHURCHES TO BEG?

Human benevolent institutions such as CHILDHAVEN, Inc. and "sponsoring churches" such as the Highland Church in Abilene, Texas spend much time and money in begging. In fact the "success" of their "projects and programs" is dependent upon their ability to "promote their programs" and to beg for funds. Often they "sound a trumpet" before them to impress those from whom they are begging. Jesus forbade this in Matthew 6:1-6.

**Is it right for "sponsoring churches" to beg individuals and other churches to contribute to them that they might do some "wonderful work?"** (See Matthew 7:21-23). If it is right for "sponsoring churches" to beg, it will be authorized in the Scriptures. **Please send the passage to me that authorizes churches**

**to beg?** Are you contending that it is right? Are you going along with the practice? If so, you are obligated to show that **it is authorized in the Scripture!** I KNOW that it is **SCRIPTURAL** for a church to receive its funds by each Christian giving of his means upon the first day of the week according to his prosperity as taught in 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. **THIS IS AUTHORIZED! It is right and unquestionably safe to practice.** Why would anyone **presume** that it is right for churches to raise funds by "begging campaigns" directed primarily toward other churches? **I sincerely call upon the advocates of this practice to show Scriptural authority for such or to immediately cease to engage in such!** Will they do it? If they are honest and true to God's Word they will!

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### FIVE WAYS TO DISOBEY GOD

from God's Word is a sin of the same sort as to add to His Word. Taking from His Word will result in one's part being taken from the tree of life and the holy city written in the Book.

When one begins to talk about God's "non-essential commands", he is prepared in heart to commit the damning sin of taking from God's Word.

**5. BY SUBSTITUTING FOR WHAT GOD HAS COMMANDED.** (Gen. 4:4; Lev. 10:1-3). Cain substituted a vegetable sacrifice for what God had commanded, (Heb. 11:4), and God had no respect for his gift. Nadab and Abihu, though they offered fire, did not offer the fire that God had commanded, and thus were consumed by their strange fire. In religion men must learn to accept no substitute", for God will not accept a substitute for obedience. (1 Sam. 15:22-23).

Realizing wherein we can fail, we need to use great caution "lest we fall." "If a man speak, let him speak at the oracles of God." (1 Pet. 4:11).

—Cecil Willis

# AN ANGRY COUNTENANCE

We say so much about gossiping and deal so severely with gossipers, yet we seldom strike a blow against he who lends the ear to malicious words. But the gossip could hardly persist in his misdeed without someone to give a hearing to him. And God is not silent about this matter. Consider the following two points:

"The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue." (Prov. 25:23). The point is simple: by a foreboding look, still the gossiping tongue. The backbiter must be made to see that we are no audience for his tales. The angry countenance serves two purposes. First, it spares us from hearing the complete bit of gossip, and second, it conveys our disapproval to the one who bears it. In all this, we are provided an excellent opportunity to teach the offender God's will about tale-bearing.

Try as we may, we will probably not be able to escape all gossip, so our next responsibility regarding it is: don't repeat any that you might hear. Psalms 15 speaks of the happy future of him who does not "take up a reproach against his neighbor." One must not pass gossip down the table of conversation, for in so doing, the hearer becomes a gos-

siper. Happy is he who not only refrains from gossip, but from listening.

—Jim Ward

## The Way Back To God

The Psalmist once wrote:  
"I thought on my ways, And turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not, to observe thy commandments."

(Psalms 119:59-60).

It is tragically true, that many, many people are separated from God because of their sins. And, they remain separated from Him because they have never "thought" on their ways. They are so busy with the hustle and bustle of life that they just failed to consider where they stand in their relationship with God. Perhaps you are one of this number. If so, then why not stop right now and check your actions and attitudes with the Word of God, and then follow the example of the inspired writer: make "haste" to "observe" the commandments of God.

Friend, this course is your only hope!  
—Gordon J. Pennock

## Sentence Sermons

When you take responsibility on your shoulders, there isn't much room left for chips.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up hurriedly and run off as nothing had happened.

If "Ignorance of God's Word is bliss", as some people claim, I know many people who must be supremely happy.

You cannot push yourself forward by patting yourself on the back.

The sermon may seem cold if you sit in the Z-row.

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