

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 19

JULY, 1982

Number 7

BUY — AND SELL NOT

"Buy the truth and sell it not . . ." (Proverbs 23:23). This statement centers our attention upon the importance of Divine truth. Men are urged to pay whatever price is necessary to acquire it, and to part with it for no earthly consideration. While truth in all avenues of life is important, that truth which concerns man's proper relationship to God is of greatest importance. It is the truth — God's revealed truth — about which Solomon speaks. The word of God is the standard of truth. (John 17:17). The truth expressed in the Lord's Word is vital to man because it is by this truth — and only by it — that men are made free from sin. Jesus said: "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32).

BUY THE TRUTH

In saying, "Buy the truth," Solomon indicates that the truth will **not** be possessed by us for nothing. Truth is **costly**. It costs, not only in terms of material riches, but in terms of many sacrifices that men must make to possess it. This fact teaches us two lessons: First, there are difficulties in the way of attaining truth; and secondly, that were it not so — were truth to be had cheap — like other things which cost little, we would regard its importance too lightly.

Solomon's statement reminds us of one of the parables of Jesus, when he said, "the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls; Who, when he found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it." (Matthew 13:45-46). Here we see not only that the truth is to be bought, but that it may cost dearly. It may cost one something, which in some cases may mean that "all that he hath" has to be bartered, or given in exchange, for it.

The merchandise of truth is to be bought by the rich and the poor alike. While a proper attitude toward material riches is involved, it is not merely money that buys truth. More than this is involved. We must be prepared to sacrifice anything, and everything, for acquiring — and retaining — of truth. Frequently it will call upon us to sacrifice popularity, a thing which many are unwilling to do. It may call upon us to give up ease, or sacrifice worldly honor; neither of which many are willing to do. To be loyal to the truth frequently means that one must go without support of those regarded as important, and must tread his way alone, without the good opinion of the powerful. To abide in God's truth may mean the giving up of the counsels of the learned, and the surrendering of the goodwill of former friends. The truth, if we buy it, may be of so high a price as to cost us **ALL** of this — **and more.**

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Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH?

Mature Christians recognize the importance of **“walking by faith.”** (See 2 Corinthians 5:7). Without faith **victory over the world** is impossible. (See 1 John 5:4). One can not truly be **“just”** unless he **“lives by faith.”** (See Romans 1:17). Since **“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,”** (Romans 10:17), it is absolutely necessary that we learn the Word of God and conform our attitudes and actions to it.

Most women in this country who are not Christians and many women who claim to be Christians frequently dress in such clothing as shorts, mini-skirts, brief swim suits, stretch pants, etc. and parade themselves in the public view. We can understand why sinners so attire themselves since they do NOT claim to be walking and living **“by faith”** and endeavoring to be victorious over the world. But with a Christian, or even with a person who claims to be one, things should be different. Can a person wear such clothes and please God? Unless such clothing is authorized in the Word of God, it is not **“of faith”** and can not be worn **“by faith.”** If such clothing can not be worn **“by faith”** one can not wear such and please God. Let us consider the following facts.

1. In the Old Testament **nakedness** was used as a **symbol of shame** to nations. (See Isaiah 47:3).

The first thing Adam and Eve realized after they sinned was that **they were naked.** They attempted to hide their **nakedness** by sewing fig leaves together and making themselves aprons or things to gird about the mid-section. Adam and Eve, using their human judgment, made a choice of clothing, but their **“choice”** did NOT hide their **nakedness** and did NOT meet God's approval. They were still considered **naked.** (See Genesis 3:6-11). God changed their garments. He made them **“coats of skins, and clothed them.”** (See Genesis 3:21). Please observe the fact that God clothed **both** man and woman. Men need to learn a lesson from this also.

3. **Dress (or clothing) reflects character and, or position, or attitude.** Tamar was recognized as a **“widow”** as long as she wore her **“widow's garments,”** but when she laid them aside and covered and wrapped herself with a veil, Judah thought she was a harlot and he went in and lay with her. (See Genesis 38:13-19). Ezra 3:10 mentions **“the priests in their apparel.”** Esther 6:10 says: **“let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear.”** **“Mourning apparel”** is referred to in 2 Samuel 14:2 and Proverbs 7:10 mentions **“a woman with the attire of a harlot.”** It is evident from these passages that **dress definitely reflects character or position or attitude.**

4. In the New Testament (in the first century) **nakedness was a symbol of shame to churches.** (See Revelation 3:17-18).

5. **God requires proper dress today.** In 1 Timothy 2:9 Paul says: **“In like manner also that woman adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array: But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”**

a. **“Modest”** clothes are clothes that are becoming, seemly, proper, well arranged and decent. Women who wear **“modest apparel”** observe the proprieties of sex. They dress decently and chastely. Such clothing as mentioned above certainly does **not** fall in the category of that which is **“modest.”**

b. Women are to **“adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness . . .”** **Shamefacedness** or **shamefastness** is that **modesty** or **decency** **“fast rooted in the character.”** It is a bashful spirit. It is a sense of shame fastened in one's character that prompts decent actions. It has the ability to blush. Women who parade their semi-nude bodies before the gazing eyes of lustful men

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Yes, to abide in God's truth is **costly**. To proclaim that truth — and stand unyieldingly for it — means that men must pay a high price. This is clearly demonstrated in the lives of the prophets of old. It is clearly seen in the lives of the apostles of Christ who felt themselves "appointed to death" and "made a spectacle unto the world, and to the angels, and to men." They were "fools for Christ's sake . . . weak . . . and despised." For the Lord — and His truth — they suffered "both hunger and thirst," were "naked" and "buffeted" and had "no certain dwelling place." For truth, they labored, "working with their own hands;" "Being reviled," they "blessed;" "being persecuted," "they entreated." For truth they were "made as the filth of the world . . . the offspring of all things." Yea, truth was costly to **them**, and as Paul writes of these things (1 Corinthians 4:9-16) he says: "Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me."

Man should "Buy the truth" — regardless of what it may cost him — for the truth is the **ONLY** means to spiritual freedom.

SELL IT NOT

Having bought the truth, Solomon says, "**Sell it not.**" Do not sell it after you have had to buy it, and have had, very possibly, to pay dearly for it.

The fact that men are instructed not to sell the truth they have bought is an indication that there is the possibility of one's doing so, and that he may fall under heavy **temptation** to do so. A man, in an hour of weakness, may be tempted to look upon what he parted from in order to become possessor of the truth, and it may seem to him that he has paid too dearly for it; he considers what his principles have cost him, and is disposed to think his principles have cost him too much. Then, he will not be lacking for people around him to tell him how much happier, richer, more prosperous, popular and respected he might have been had he not been so particular, so scrupulous, so conscientious, and so uncompromising. And then, that liar, who from the beginning abode not in the truth, helps him to think that this is so, and he is, at length, prepared to **sell** the truth. And what does he expect to **get** by the sale of it? To regain popularity, to

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BETTER FOLLOW THE BIBLE PLAN

The people who think about it know that the usual way of raising money in the churches has something wrong with it. It is a means to an end, but the means is not right.

1. It represents Christians as beggars and coaxers.

2. It prostitutes the religion of Christ to the level of secular organizations "doing something for charity" by promoting carnivals, contests, and shows.

3. It makes sincere Christians ashamed that the work of the church is done on the money obtained by fleecing the sinners and begging the world.

4. It puts the means above the ends: they are forced to give concerts for money, not for music and culture; to hold suppers for profit, not for sociability; to distribute books for a commission, not for instruction; and generally degrade and pauperize the greatest business on earth.

5. It makes the money bag the measure of recognition, and mortgages the church's conscience to heavy and showy givers.

6. It uses up time and strength in getting the tools for the work which ought to be spent in doing the work itself.

7. It insults God, and disgusts the world.

8. It fails to do the job.

There is only one way to carry on the work of the church. That is the way God outlined in His book: "**Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him . . .**"

—T.H. Tarbet in **THE CALL TO WORSHIP**
Hobbs, New Mexico, July 24, 1950.

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BUY — AND SELL NOT

regain ease, to regain reputation, to regain the honor, the support, and the good will that he had to sacrifice in order to **buy** the truth.

DISAPPOINTMENT

But, in so thinking, he is doomed to disillusion. For, as in other cases, so in this: **Buying is one thing, and selling is another.** In **selling** a thing you rarely receive what you gave for it; if you buy dear, you sell cheap. Yes, you may sell the truth, but it is **not**

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LIQUOR A to Z

THE LIQUOR EVIL —

Arms more villains
Breaks more laws
Corrupts more officials
Destroys more homes
Engulfs more fortunes
Fills more jails
Grows more gray hairs
Harrows more hearts
Incites more crimes
Jeopardizes more lives
Maims more bodies
Nails down more coffins
Opens more graves
Places more feet on the downward path
Quenches more hopes
Raises more sobs
Sells more virtue
Tells more lies
Undermines more youth
Voids more contracts
Wrecks more men
Xcites more murders
Yields more disgrace
Zeroes more hopes than any other
enemy of mankind.

—Taken from THE FRIENDLY
VISITOR, September 30, 1950.

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certain that you will **regain** any one of those things which you have had to sacrifice when you bought it. In any event **you** are the **loser** in the transaction — for when one sells **God's truth**, he is, at the same time, selling **his own soul**. **WHAT A FRIGHTFUL TRANSACTION TO MAKE!**

—Paul C. Keller
in PAUSE-PONDER-PROFIT

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DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH?

do NOT have this **sense of shame**.

c. Women are to "**adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety . . .**" To dress with sobriety is to dress sensibly and discreetly. It involves sound judgment and soberness in dressing. Women who dress in such indecent and provocative clothing as mentioned above do NOT dress with "**sobriety**," to say nothing of "**shamefacedness**!"

NO, SUCH CLOTHING CAN NOT BE WORN BY FAITH! Mature Christians will not wear such dress! (To be continued)

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

The best way for a person to have happy thoughts is to count his blessings and not his cash.

The little oil of courtesy will save a lot of friction.

Too many people are broad-minded about the wrong things.

No one is ever too old to learn, but many people just keep putting it off.

One may go wrong in many directions, but right only in one.

Life is a one way street and we are not coming back.

Sometimes your natural bent needs to be broken.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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