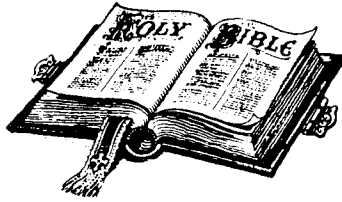


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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RUTHLESS TACTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

False teachers constitute the foremost destructive force to the church in every generation. The damage they do is probably greater than that done by all other forces combined. Warnings concerning them are expressed by every writer of the New Testament.

False teachers can be so mean and ruthless in their approach. They will do anything to discredit a faithful preacher of the gospel. If he changes his mind, even in an area as insignificant as travel plans, they will accuse him of being fickle, the kind of man that talks out of both sides of his mouth. If he receives support for preaching, they will accuse him of being covetous; if he doesn't, they will use this fact to discredit his ability and qualifications as a teacher. They will accuse him of being cowardly. If he is an effective writer, they will say he is strong in his writing, but weak when confronted face to face.

False teachers will go to any end to establish their own credentials. They will somehow come up with impressive letters of commendation. They will claim credit for work done by others. They will place themselves in a favorable light through unfair comparisons. Their accomplishments always seem to be greater than those of faithful preachers. They specialize in outward appearance.

False teachers will drain their deceived of everything they can get out of

them. They will bring them into bondage. They will devour them. They will take from them. They will exalt themselves.

False teachers must be exposed for what they really are — the ministers of Satan transformed as the ministers of righteousness.

But before someone accuses us of judging, let us hasten to say that this appraisal of false teachers is not ours. It is the apostle Paul's as given in the book of Second Corinthians (see 1:15-20; 3:1-5; 10:7-18; 11:7-20), a letter in which Paul deals, not so much with the doctrinal error of false teachers as with their vicious tactics. It is our opinion, however, that things have not changed much in the past 1900 years. False teachers of today still use the same tactics.

How sad it is that those who hold to the truth sometimes stoop to such shameful shenanigans, as though truth must be sustained by trickery and deceit. **No! No! No!** False teaching can only be propagated by unfair and evil means. But the teacher of truth does not depend upon such, for truth does not find its power in human wisdom or in shrewd, unprincipled scheming, but in the power of God who gives the increase. **"The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling**

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Editorial . . .

BANKRUPTCY

Have you ever preached or heard a sermon preached (or a lesson taught) on the subject of "BANKRUPTCY?" I have never heard one and I had never taught one until about five years ago. At that time a beloved brother in Christ who worshipped with the church here at East Albertville, filed for bankruptcy under Chapter 7 of the bankruptcy code. After studying what is involved in "bankruptcy" and considering Scriptural principles, on December 6, 1981, I preached a lesson on "BANKRUPTCY." The following is an outline of that lesson.

BANKRUPTCY

Intro:

1. The number of people who have filed for bankruptcy has increased tremendously the last few years. Acc. to the information that I have it has more than doubled in two years — from 210,000 to 450,000.
2. No doubt, many of you personally know someone who has taken "bankruptcy." If you do not, you have probably heard of someone who has.
3. What is bankruptcy?
 - A. Basically, bankruptcy is a legal means of a person being declared insolvent, his property (except that which is exempted) being administered for and distributed among his creditors — and being declared free of one's debts.
 - B. **Bankrupt** — "Not able to pay one's debts and freed by law from

the need for doing so." WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, Elementary Edition.

C. Two basic kinds of bankruptcy — Voluntary and involuntary.

D. Debtors' Court — One affirms his debts and makes arrangement to pay them under court supervision. (**Editor's note:** This would also be wrong if the court granted relief from **any** of the debts.)

4. Is bankruptcy right, or is it wrong? Can a Christian Scripturally take bankruptcy or is it sinful?
5. We must go to God's Word for the answer. Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17.
 - What saith the Scriptures?
 - Taking voluntary bankruptcy as a means of being declared legally free of one's debts is sinful because of the following reasons.

DISCUSSION

- I. IT VIOLATES ROMANS 13:8. **We should pay our debts!**
 - A. Romans 13:8 — "**Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.**"
 - B. Psalms 37:21 — "**The wicked borrow and payeth not again.**"
 - C. A "bankrupt condition" may result from a violation of Rom. 12:11 which says: "**Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.**"
 - D. Cf. Psalms 112:5 — "**A good man showeth favor, and lendeth; he will guide his affairs with discretion.**"
 - E. There are four right ways to have debts satisfied.
 1. Pay with money
 2. Pay with goods or services.
 3. Someone else pay it for the debtor.
 4. Creditor forgive the debt.**Note:** Taking bankruptcy is **not** a Scriptural way to satisfy a debt!
- II. IT VIOLATES GOD'S LAW OF PROVIDING THINGS HONESTLY.
 - A. Romans 12:17 — "**... Provide things honest in the sight of all men.**"
 - B. 2 Cor. 8:21 — **Providing for honest things, not only in the**

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BANKRUPTCY

sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

C. Hebrews 13:18 — "... in all things willing to live honestly."

D. 1 Thess. 4:11-12 — "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you: That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing."

III. IT VIOLATES GOD'S LAW OF LOVE AND CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS.

A. Matthew 7:12 — "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

— Luke 6:31 — "And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."

B. Romans 13:8 — "Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another fulfilleth the law."

C. Romans 13:10 — "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

D. Romans 13:9 — "... Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

E. Love will prompt one to treat others like he wants to be treated.

F. The fact that **bankruptcy** is "legal" does not justify it anymore than the "legality" of gambling justifies gambling.

—Cf. Selling liquor when legal, drinking liquor when legal, dancing, dressing immodestly or taking a brother to law.

G. **Note:** The gambler takes money (or its equivalent) by consent; the person who takes bankruptcy does so against the consent of his creditors — in most cases!

IV. IT DESTROYS ONE'S INFLUENCE FOR GOOD, TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

A. Most religious people believe that it is wrong to take bankruptcy, and most worldly people (who are not religious) recognize it as a vice.

B. Cf. 2 Sam. 12:14 — David gave "great occasion to the enemies

of Jehovah to blaspheme." **Result:** His wives would be given to his neighbor who would lie with them in the sight of the sun. Also his child would die.

C. Matthew 5:13 — "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and to be trodden under the foot of men."

D. Matthew 5:14-16 — "Ye are the light of the world . . . Let your light SO SHINE before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

E. Col. 4:5 — "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without . . ."

F. Romans 14:16 — "Let not your good be evil spoken of . . ."

Note: By eating meat (which was not wrong within itself). Surely we should not take bankruptcy (which is wrong) since it will cause our good to be evil spoken of.

G. 1 Tim. 4:12 — "Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation (ASV says: 'in manner of life'), in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

—Cf. Titus 2:7-8 — "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: . . ."

H. 2 Cor. 6:3 — "Giving none offence in anything, that the ministry be not blamed."

V. IT IS A STUMBLING BLOCK TO OTHERS.

A. Romans 14:19 — "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another."

B. Romans 14:13 — "Let us not therefore judge one another anymore: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." **Note:** Contextually, eating meat (which is not sinful within itself) is being considered.

(Continued from page 3)

BANKRUPTCY

—Cf. 1 Cor. 8:9 — “**But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.**”

C. 1 Cor. 10:32 — “**Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.**”

D. Matthew 18:6-7 — “**But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh.**”

(To be continued)

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(Continued from page 1)

RUTHLESS TACTICS OF FALSE TEACHERS

down of strongholds” (2 Cor. 10:4). God’s “**sword of the Spirit,**” wielded skillfully in love, can gain the victory among all who sincerely love the truth.

—**Bill Hall**
in **THE WAY,**
June 22, 1978

Editor’s note: One does not have to be a false teacher (necessarily) in order to resort to the use of **ruthless tactics** such as those mentioned in the above article and others. Some brethren are also guilty of using ruthless tactics in an effort to destroy the influence of faithful men and women in the Lord’s church. Backbiting, talebearing and spreading rumors are some of the **car-nal weapons** they use. Such people, including many preachers, will **not** escape the judgment of God in the last day.

A RELIGIOUS DEBATE

A series of public discussions will be conducted in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on September 8-12, 1986 at 7:30 each evening. The disputants will be Mr. Jack L. Frost and Carrol R. Sutton. They will discuss the **purpose** of water baptism. All are invited to attend. More details will appear in the next issue of **THE INSTRUCTOR.**

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Untold thousands are lost almost every day — untold!

* * * * *

God truly instructs those who take time to listen to His Word.

* * * * *

A great mind is always a generous one.

* * * * *

If your faith does not work, it is dead!

* * * * *

To be great, one must be kind, true, honest and humble enough to serve faithfully.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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