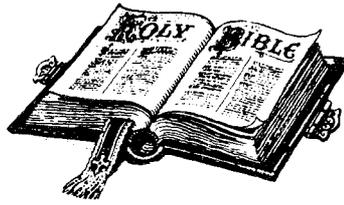


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## **STAND, SEE, ASK**

**"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jeremiah 6:16)**

What is the cause of division in the religious world? Is it God's Word? The statement is made by many, "We can't all see the Bible alike." James says the law is perfect. Paul tells us that the Word is sufficient for all that man does in religion. (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The reason for religious division is man who is willing to accept about anything in religion except Bible teaching. As a result, he has written a creed stating his belief and practice. The creeds of man need to be discarded and all return to the Word of God, where there is safety.

Consider Jeremiah's much needed plea today. We need to stop, face the facts, investigate, consider our actions. Too many times one is guilty of assuming that what he does in religion is pleasing to God. This is the mistake made by Nadab, Abihu, Saul, Uzzah—they were all punished.

We need to seek the ancient order of things; God's truths are timeless. We should not allow modernism to persuade us that modern man needs a modern

religion. Sin is still the spiritual disease; the Gospel still the means of forgiveness. The "old path" is the "good way" that leads to eternal life. (John 14:6).

It is not enough to know about the "old path" for one must walk in that path. It is not enough to say, "I believe the New Testament to be the Word of God," and then to add to it, subtract from it by accepting the doctrines and commandments of men. One must be willing to "DO" the things taught in the Word. (Matthew 7:21).

Will you not consider God's message as found in the New Testament, obey it, and then join with us in our plea and appeal for a restoration of New Testament Christianity? Remember friend, the destiny of your soul is at stake.

—W. C. Hinton, Jr. in HIGHLAND STREET MESSENGER, Feb. 4, 1973.

### **PROVERBS 14:26**

**"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."**

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### Editorial . . .

## THE PLEASURE (or Delight) OF THE LORD

The word **pleasure** is defined as "1. a feeling of delight, or satisfaction; enjoyment . . . 2. A thing that gives pleasure . . . 3. One's wish or choice. . . ." (WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY, Elementary Edition) The word **delight** is defined as "1. great joy or pleasure . . . 2. Something giving great joy or pleasure. . ." (ibid.)

Man receives pleasure from a number of things including **sin**. We learn and know from observation and participation and by revelation that such is the case. Hebrews 11:24-26 says: "**By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the PLEASURES OF SIN for a season: Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.**" In Luke 8:14 Jesus mentioned "**pleasures of this life.**" Not all pleasures are wrong. We should **not** choose the pleasure of sin.

Sin would **never** give God pleasure. God is **pure** and **holy**. In contrast with men and angels, God **cannot** be tempted with evil. There is **no** enticement to God to sin nor conception of lust that could result in sin.

Things in which God delights (or has pleasure) would not necessarily delight or give men pleasure.

Men often choose those things in which God does **not** delight. In Isaiah 66:4-5 God said: ". . . They have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations. I will also choose their delusions, and will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spake, they did not hear: but they did evil before mine eyes, and chose that in which I delighted not."

The only way we can know the things in which the Lord takes pleasure or delight or those things in which the Lord does **not** delight or take pleasure is by studying the Scriptures and learning what they teach.

### SOMETHINGS IN WHICH GOD HAS NO PLEASURE OR DELIGHT

We learn from the Scriptures that God has no delight or pleasure in the following things.

1. **FOOLS!** In Eccl. 5:4-5 the Preacher said: "**When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou has vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay.**" NOTE: Obviously a person who defers to pay a vow made unto God is a **fool!** There are other "fools" mentioned by the Preacher and other inspired writers. Here are some of them:

(1) Proverbs 10:18 — ". . . and he that uttereth a slander is a fool."

(2) Proverbs 28:26 — "**He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: . . .**"

(3) Luke 12:20 — (In reference to the rich man in the parable): "**But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?**" NOTE: The next verse says: "**So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.**"

## THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD

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Let us now consider some of the other characteristics of some fools.

(1) Psalms 14:1 — **“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God . . .”**

(2) Proverbs 1:7 — **“ . . . but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

(3) Proverbs 12:16 — **“A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.”**

(4) Proverbs 14:9 — **“Fools make a mock at sin: . . .”**

(5) Proverbs 14:16 — **“A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth and is confident.”**

(6) Proverbs 18:2 — **“A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover it.”**

(7) Proverbs 29:11 — **“A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.”**

In spite of what is said about “fools” in the Scriptures, **“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes . . .”** (See Proverbs 12:15).

**REMEMBER: God has no pleasure in fools!**

2. **PHYSICAL STRENGTH!** Although men may take great pleasure in physical strength, **God does not!** **“He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man.”** (Psalms 147:10).

**REMEMBER: God does not delight in physical strength!**

3. **BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES IN DISOBEDIENCE!** To impress upon Saul the seriousness of not performing God’s commandments Samuel said: **“Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”**

(1 Sam. 15:22-23). When God gives commands He delights in our doing His will. To do something else instead of His commandments is rebellion and stubbornness. It is a rejection of His word! God does **not** take pleasure in substitution. It is rebellion and stubbornness.

**REMEMBER: God does not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices but in obedience!**

4. **WICKEDNESS!** Wickedness is that which is bad in contrast with good. It is darkness in contrast with light. That which is sinful, evil or iniquitous is wickedness! The whole world **“lieth in wickedness.”** (cf. 1 John 5: 19). This is an **“evil world.”** (cf. Gal. 1:4). We need to redeem the time because **“the days are evil.”** (cf. Eph. 5:16).

Every **sinful** act from fornication to failing to be a good steward constitutes wickedness!

While speaking to the Lord, the Psalmist said: **“For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.”** (Psalms 5:4).

**REMEMBER: God has no pleasure in wickedness!**

5. **THE DEATH OF THE WICKED!** The wicked, as well as the righteous, must die. To understand God’s attitude toward the death of the wicked, let us consider the following passages:

(1) Ezekiel 18:23 — **“Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord: and not that he should return from his ways, and live?”**

(2) Ezekiel 18:31-32 — **“Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, said the Lord: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.”**

(3) Ezekiel 33:11 — **“Say unto them, as I live, saith the Lord, I**

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**have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: . . ."**

Since most are wicked when they die, they die the death of the wicked. People must choose to die the death of the righteous in order to so die.

**REMEMBER: God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked!**

6. **THOSE WHO DRAW BACK!** A brother who sins needs converting and his soul needs saving. (Cf. James 5:19-20). One who has escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of Christ and is again entangled therein and overcome is in a lost condition. (Cf. 2 Peter 2:20-22).

We learn from Hebrews 10:38-39 that God has no pleasure in those who draw back. It says: **"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them**

**who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."**

Every brother and sister in the Lord should ponder this passage and give diligence to make their calling and election. (Cf. 2 Peter 1:5-12).

**REMEMBER: God has no delight in those who draw back!**

Those of us who are God's children should **never** take pleasure or delight in those things in which God does **not** delight nor take pleasure. We should learn to **hate** those things which God hates.

*(To be continued)* (CRS)

**THE PSALMIST SAID: "I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted: I said in my haste, All men are liars."**  
(Psalms 116:9-11).

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

It's strange, but a big head is the sign of a small man.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is a blessing to forget our troubles and remember our blessings.

\* \* \* \* \*

God's promises are always greater than our problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Lord can depend on you only if you depend on Him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Unbelief is the door to damnation — and hell!

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