

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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IS IT REALLY TRUE?

Is it really true that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth? **Yes**, it is true because the apostle Paul mentions ". . . the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Timothy 3:15). **NOTE: No human denomination is the pillar and ground of the truth! If the truth is important, then the church is important because it is the pillar and ground of the truth!**

Is it really true that Paul taught the same doctrine in every church? **Yes**, it is true because in speaking of Timothy to the Corinthians the apostle Paul said: ". . . who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church." (1 Cor. 4:17). **NOTE: Paul did not teach conflicting doctrines in different churches. He taught the same doctrine every where. So should we!**

Is it really true that the church is **not** to be charged with relieving widows who have relatives to take care of them? **Yes**, it is true because Paul said: "If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed." (1 Timothy 5:16). **NOTE:**

This indicates that **the church is limited in its responsibility to relieve the needy**. This passage also specifies the **church as the organization to "relieve" them** that are widows indeed. Other passages indicates that the church has a responsibility toward other needy saints. **FURTHER NOTE: We should not confuse "methods" with "organizations."** God did **not** specify the "**method**" to be used in **relieving widows indeed** but God **did** specify the **organization (the church)** that is to do the relieving!

Is it really true that "**churches of Christ**" are mentioned in the Scriptures in an approved way? **Yes**, it is true! In the last part of Romans 16:16 Paul wrote to the saints at Rome: ". . . **The churches of Christ salute you.**" **NOTE: The congregations (churches) were also spoken of as "the churches of God."** (See 1 Cor. 11:16). **FURTHER NOTE: Since a plurality of "churches of Christ" existed, it is obvious that a singular "church of Christ" existed! Surely it is right to refer to one church as a "church of Christ" or "church of God."** If such is **not** so, then it would be wrong to refer to a Christian as a "**child of God**" since that exact expression

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Editorial . . .

MASONRY (No. 3)

In our past studies on MASONRY we have discussed twelve reasons WHY A CHRISTIAN CANNOT SCRIPTURALLY BE A MASON. As we continue our study we would like to list additional reasons WHY A CHRISTIAN CANNOT BE A MASON.

XIII. MASONRY IS BUILT ON A LEGEND! On page 6 of *Jurisprudence Of Freemasonry* we read: "And it is necessary that it should be so, for the legend of the Temple Builder institutes the very essence and identity of Masonry. Any rite which should exclude it, or materially alter it, would at once, by that exclusion or alteration, cease to be a Masonic rite.

"The Hiramic Legend is the glory of Freemasonry; the search for that which was lost is the glory of life." (*Indiana Monitor and Freemason's Guide*, page 148)
"By its legend and all its ritual, it is implied that we have been redeemed from the death of sin and the sepulchre of pollution."

A careful consideration of the following Scriptures should convince all of us that truth is not based on legend: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; John 16:13; 17:17; James 1:25; 2:12; Titus 1:13-14 and Matthew 15:7-9.

XIV. MASONRY REQUIRES UNSCRIPTURAL OATHS. On pages 69-70 of *Hand Book of Freemasonry* by Edmond Ronayne we read: "All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, . . . binding myself under a no less penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots and buried in the rough sands of the sea at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice every twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly violate this my solemn obligation of an Entered Apprentice Mason. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same." (Also see *Freemasonry Exposed* by Capt. William Morgan, pages 21-22.)

In *Hand Book of Freemasonry* on pages 122-123 it says: ". . . All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, . . . binding myself under a no less penalty than that of having my left breast torn open . . ., my heart plucked out and given as a prey to the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air should I every knowingly violate this my solemn obligation of a Fellow Craft Mason, so help me God and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same." (Also see *Freemasonry Exposed* by Capt. William Morgan, pages 52-53.)

On pages 170-173 of *Hand Book of Freemasonry* we read: ". . . All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear with a firm and steadfast resolution to keep and perform the same without any equivocation, mental reservation, or secret evasion of mind whatever . . . binding myself under a no less penalty than that of having my body severed in twain, my bowels taken from thence and burned to ashes, and the ashes

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scattered to the four winds of heaven that no trace or remembrance may be had of so vile and perjured a wretch as I, should I ever knowingly violate this my solemn obligation as a Master Mason. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same." (Also see **Freemasonry Exposed**, pages 73-75.)

God, in His Word, forbids swearing, the taking of oaths, in Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12.

XV. MASONRY REQUIRES CHRISTIANS TO BE UNEQUALLY YOKED WITH UNBELIEVERS. On page 789 of the Encyclopedia of Freemasonry we read: "In Masonry, the grip of recognition is called a token, because it is an outward sign of the covenant of friendship and fellowship entered into between the members of the Fraternity, and is to be considered as a memorial of that covenant which was made, when it was first received by the candidate, between and the Order into which he was then initiated." On page 572 it says: There are duties owing by every Mason to his brethren, which, from their symbolic allusion to certain points of the body, and from the lesson of brotherly love from which they teach, are called the 'Five Points of Fellowship'." On page 57 of Jurisprudence of Freemasonry it says: "Masons are only expected to be of that religion in which all men agree leaving their particular opinions to themselves. Under the shelter of this wise provision, the Christian and the Jew, the Mohammedan and the Brahmin, are permitted to unite around our common altar and Masonry becomes, in practice as well as in theory, universal." On page 144 we read that "A Mason is to be

preferred to any other applicant in the same circumstances."

A study of such passages as II Cor. 6:14-17; Eph. 5:11-13; James 4:4; Rom. 12:10 and Gal. 6:10 should convince every Christian that he should not be "yoked" with Masons.

XVI. MASONRY OFFERS HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE IN A CELESTIAL LODGE ABOVE. On page 169 the **Kentucky Monitor** says: "As Masons we have one faith, one hope, one charity. We believe in, and depend upon the same God, have the same hope of eternal life, . . ." On page 152 we read: "Then let us imitate our G.M.H.A. (Grand Master Hiram Abif — CRS) in all his varied perfection. Let us emulate his amiable and virtuous character, his unfeigned piety to God, and his inflexible fidelity to his trust, that, like him, we may welcome the grim tyrant Death, and receive him as a kind messenger sent by our Supreme Master to translate us from this imperfect to that all-perfect, glorious, and celestial Lodge above, where the great Architect presides, forever reigns." We also read on page 32: "By the Lambskin, therefore, the Mason is reminded of that purity of life and conduct which is essential to his gaining admission to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the universe presides."

A study of John 6:44-45; 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:3-5; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:4; 1 John 2:3; 5:13 and other passages indicates that salvation and eternal life in heaven is only through and by Jesus Christ our Lord!

Please read and study the following Scriptures: John 12:48-50; 8:12; James 1:21-25; 2:12; 1 Peter 1:22-25; Mt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:22-23; Col. 1:18; Acts 20:28; 2:47; Eph. 3:21 and Col. 2:8-10.

(To be continued) (CRS)

SUTTON-MERIDETH DEBATE

A public discussion has been scheduled for September 4, 5, 7 & 8, 1989 in and near Puducah, Kentucky.

Carrol R. Sutton of Albertville, Alabama and **J. Noel Merideth** of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee will be disputants.

Sutton will affirm for two sessions that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT CHURCHES OF CHRIST MAY NOT BUILD AND MAINTAIN BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BOLES ORPHAN HOME, TENNESSEE ORPHAN HOME, CHILDHAVEN AND HOME FOR THE AGED FOR THE CARE OF THE NEEDY."

Merideth will affirm for two sessions that "THE SCRIPTURES

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("child of God") is **not** found in the Scriptures! Of course, the expression, "children of God" IS found in the Scriptures. (See Gal. 3:26-27.)

(CRS)

TEACH THAT CHURCHES OF CHRIST MAY BUILD AND MAINTAIN BENEVOLENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BOLES ORPHAN HOME, TENNESSEE ORPHAN HOME, CHILDHAVEN AND HOME FOR THE AGED FOR THE CARE OF THE NEEDY."

NOTE: If **you** have any material that you think might be of any assistance to me in defending the truth, please send it to me. Thanks! (CRS)

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Alcohol can kill the living and preserve the dead.

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To receive the crown we must bear the cross.

* * * * *

Many who claim much love for the Lord have little love for man.

* * * * *

Before you say what you think — you should THINK!

* * * * *

Truth never needs a lie to defend it.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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