

# 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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## "BEING BORN AGAIN"

In 1 Peter 1:23, we read: **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."** We read in John 3:3-5 that Jesus said unto Nicodemus: **"...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."** NOTE: It is obvious that these two passages are referring to "the new birth".

Consider the following facts about the preceding passages.

1. The physical birth of a person (his entrance into the world) is not under consideration. It is not discussing the birth of an infant, but the birth of **"a man"**.

2. It is a **"being born again"**! It is not being born a first time! It is a second birth! It is an "again" birth.

3. It is a spiritual birth!

4. It is a birth that is essential in order for **"a man"** to **"see the kingdom of God."**

5. It is a birth that is essential in order for **"a man"** to **"enter into the kingdom of God"**.

6. John 3:3-5 indicates that there are two "elements" (**"born of water and of the Spirit"**) involved in this one new birth or this **"being born again"**.

7. 1 Peter 1:23 indicates that this birth is not a physical birth because it is not of **"corruptible seed"**. This birth must be a spiritual birth because it is of **"incorruptible"** seed, which is **"the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."** It is God's word, the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is His power to save sinners. (See James 1:21, 25; Romans 1:16; Acts 11:14, etc.)

OBSERVATION: In a physical birth, there must be a begetting. So it is in this spiritual birth. James says: **"Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth..."** (1:18)

Jesus said one must **"be born of water and of the Spirit."** We are begotten by the Spirit through (or by means of) the gospel (see 1 Cor. 4:15). According to the gospel of Christ a penitent believer must be baptized in water in order to be saved! Thus he is **"born again"**! Have you been born again? (CRS)

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## Editorial...

### PREACHING JESUS & HIM CRUCIFIED (7)

In our previous studies on "PREACHING JESUS AND HIM CRUCIFIED" we showed from the Scriptures that:

1. It means to condemn division and preach and plead for unity of God's people! 2. It means to preach that the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God! 3. It means to condemn the sin of fornication! 4. It means to condemn saints going to law with one another! 5. It means to condemn Christians fighting in carnal wars! 6. It means to condemn false teaching and expose false teachers. 7. It means to condemn immorality (& other sins of worldliness as it appears in every form) among God's people as well as in people outside the body of Christ! 8. It means to preach that women are to keep silence in the churches! 9. It means to preach that there is but one church!

10. It means to preach that salvation is in Christ! 11. It means to preach that sinners are baptized into Christ! 12. It means to preach the truth as taught in 1 Cor. 11:1-16 relative to headship as set forth in v.3 and the uncovering of the head of every man when "praying and prophesying" and the covering of the head of every woman when she "prayeth or prophesieth." 13. It means to preach the observance of the Lord's Supper! 14. It means to preach that there are many idols (false gods) that are called gods and many that are called lords, but that there is but one true God and one true Lord! 15. It means to preach the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and 16. It means to preach that the gospel of Christ is the power of God to save sinners!

As we continue our study on "preaching Jesus and Him crucified" we learn:

17. It means to preach the grace of God! In preaching the grace of God we should preach the following facts.

(A). The grace of God can be known in truth. (See Col. 1:6).

(B). It brings redemption & and forgiveness of sins. (See Eph. 1:7).

(C). It justifies us. (See Romans 3:24; Titus 3:7).

(D). It brings salvation. (See Titus 2:11-12)

(E). It saves us. (See Eph. 2:5, 8-9; Acts 15:11).

(F). It must be continued in. (See Acts 13:43; cf. Acts 14:22).

(G). Grace is with those who love our Lord in sincerity. (Eph. 6:24).

(H). It must be stood in. (See 1 Pet. 5:12).

(I). It is sufficient for us. (See 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Cor. 9:8).

(J). Requires labor. (See John 6:27-29).

(K). The true grace of God ex-

cludes "the law given by Moses", but it includes "truth and grace that came by Jesus Christ." (See John 1:17).

(L). The true grace of God excludes justification by the law of Moses, but it includes justification by Christ. (See Acts 13:39; Gal. 2:16).

(M). The true grace of God excludes justification by the deeds of the law (of Moses), but it includes justification by faith. (See Romans 3:28).

(N). The true grace of God excludes salvation by works of righteousness which we have done, but it includes salvation according to his mercy by the washing of regeneration & the renewing of the Holy Spirit. (See Titus 3:5).

(O). The true grace of God excludes our being under the law (of Moses), but it includes our being under law to Christ. (See Romans 6:14 & 1 Cor. 9:21).

(P). The true grace of God excludes meritorious works, but it includes working righteousness. (See Rom. 4:4; Eph. 2:9 & Acts 10:34-35; John 6:27-29).

(Q). The true grace of God includes a change of the law! (See Heb. 7:12; Gal. 6:2; James 2:12; James 1:25).

(R). The true grace of God excludes boastful works (see Eph. 2:9; Luke 17:10), meritorious works (see Titus 3:5), works of iniquity (see Mt. 7:22-23), and works of the flesh (see Gal. 5:19-21), but it includes the work of God (see John 6:27-29), works of righteousness (i.e., our working God's righteousness (see Acts 10:34-35 1 John 2:29; 3:10), and the works of faith of James 2:24).

(S). The true grace of God excludes salvation by grace *only* (see Eph. 2:8-9), and salvation by faith *only* (see James 2:24), but it includes salvation by faith (see Eph.

2:8-9), and by faith that works and obeys God word (see James 2:24 & Gal. 5:6). Yes, the true grace of God includes salvation by *obedience!* (See Mt. 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 22:14).

(T). The true grace of God abounds and it reigns through righteousness. (See Romans 5:20-21; 6:1-2 & 2 Cor. 8:9).

NOTE: Let us "preach Jesus and Him crucified" by preaching "**the true grace of God.**" It is "**the word of his grace**" according to Acts 20:32. In Acts 20:24 Paul called it "**the gospel of the grace of God.**"

18. It means to preach that Christians should withdraw themselves from disorderly brethren! In 2 Thess. 3:6 Paul wrote: "**Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.**" In verses 14-15 he further wrote: "**And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.**"

Read and study carefully 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 2 Cor. 2:3-11 & Romans 16:17-18. Also read and study Matthew 18:15-18.

19. It means to preach the kingdom of heaven (of God), which is the church! In Corinth Paul "**went into the synagogue and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.**" (Acts 19:8). Speaking to the elders of the church of Ephesus, Paul said: "**And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.**" (Acts 20:25).

In Rome Paul "expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus..." and he "dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." (Acts 28:23, 30-31). For additional thoughts about the kingdom of God see Eph. 5:5; Col. 1:13-14; Heb. 12:28-29; John 3:5; Acts 8:12, etc.

NOTES:

(1) The expressions "my church" and "kingdom of heaven" are used interchangeably by Jesus in Matthew 16:18-19.

(2) The expressions "the kingdom of heaven" and "the kingdom of God" are used interchangeably by Jesus in Matthew 19:23-24.

(3) We learn from Matthew 4:17 that "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Re-

pent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" and we learn from Mk. 1:14-15 that "Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying,...the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

(4) The Lord's Supper was to be observed in the Lord's kingdom. (See Luke 22:13-22; Matthew 26:26-29 & Mark 14:22-25). But we learn from 1 Cor. 11:17-34 that the Lord's Supper was being observed in the church (assembly)! Therefore we must conclude that the kingdom and the church is the same! If not, why not? (To be continued)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS at Elon, NEW HOPE, AL—July 18—23, 2010 - Carrol R. Sutton**

NOTICE: If you would like to receive a copy of the last nine years of the bound volume of THE INSTRUCTOR let us hear from you. My e-mail address is <sutton413@charter.net>.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS at Purdue Ave. in Oak Ridge, Tn –August 6-8, 2010—Carrol R. Sutton will be preaching! Make plans to attend!**

**SENTENCE SERMONS**

One purpose for living is to make life less difficult for others.

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When your outlook is dark, try looking up.

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If you do not depend upon the Lord, it is certain that He cannot depend upon you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Time that is wasted and lost, can never be found and used properly.

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring is the "sprouting season" but "wild oats" grow all year long.

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