

# 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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## ARE THERE THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD?

In view of the clear-cut teaching of the Bible regarding the doctrine of the Trinity, it would seem strange indeed that any person or persons might conceive the idea of only one person in the Godhead. However, in recent years a movement has sprung up which is built around that very contention. They are sometimes known as "Oneness Holiness" and "Jesus Only" people. We would not cast one iota of reflection upon their honesty, for no doubt many of them are just as sincere as any group of people, religiously speaking. However, we are reminded that honesty doesn't make one always right in his belief. Paul was honest, but thought he ought to do many things contrary to the name of the Lord Jesus. Being honest, he changed his ways when shown to be in error. It is commendable indeed when one loves the truth to such an extent.

**"I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE."**  
(Jno. 10:30)

The above statement is quite often used as a proof-text in support of the "Oneness" contention. But let us examine the reasoning:

When Jesus prayed for all those who were to believe on Him, He prayed to the Father "That they ALL might be ONE; AS thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee." (John 17:21).

Please observe Christ's plea. It was for the unity or "oneness" of His followers. Are all true followers "one"? Absolutely, for there "is ONE body." (Eph. 4:4). Yet there are ("many members" (persons). When a person be-

comes a Christian, he becomes united with Christ, but he continues to be a PERSON and still possesses an individual personality. A thousand persons may become Christians. They would be united in the "ONE BODY" and thus answer Christ's prayer, yet they would still maintain a thousand individual personalities, even though they were "ONE" in Christ.

Christ and God are "one" in purpose and intent; one in essence; one in the eternal plan to save men. Yet they maintain individual personality. There is ONE GOD, yet in THREE PERSONS. There is "ONE BODY" of believers, yet "MANY MEMBERS". (1 Cor. 12:12). Did not Jesus pray for believers to be "one" even "AS" (in the same manner) the Son and the Father are one? (John 17:21). Surely he did. Therefore it is possible to be "one" and still have a plurality of PERSONS.

A man marries a wife, and they become "ONE FLESH." (Matt. 19:5). Is there anyone who would deny Jesus' statement that man and wife are ONE? And yet, would any be so unwise or unrealistic as to deny that they are TWO PERSONALITIES? Jesus said, "I and my FATHER" (two persons) "are ONE." And so THEY (plural) are!

When Jesus came to John to be baptized in Jordan, we find that as Jesus "went up straightway out of the water" that He "SAW the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a VOICE FROM HEAVEN,

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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CARROL R. SUTTON,  
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Alabama 35950.

## Editorial - - -

### THERE WAS NO DEBATE

I hereby apologize for having announced in the April, 1965 issue of "THE INSTRUCTOR" that the Sutton-Odom Debate would be conducted in Greenville, Miss., on May 25-28, 1965. The debate was NOT held as planned.

Mr. Royce E. Odom, a United Pentecostal Church preacher, of Greenville, Mississippi and I signed an agreement to have a four-nights public debate in Greenville, Miss. The debate was scheduled to be held May 25-28, 1965. The propositions we signed to discuss dealt with the "Godhead" and the "baptismal formula." Mr. Odom agreed to furnish the place and facilities and do the advertising (locally) for the debate. We also agreed to have another four-night debate in Albertville, Ala., not later than ninety (90) days after the Greenville debate. My brethren and I were to furnish the place and facilities and do the advertising for that debate.

Bro. Howard See of Manchester, Tenn. drove down to Albertville and he and I drove to Greenville, Miss. (about 350 miles) on Tuesday, May 25, 1965 to begin the debate that evening. Bro. See was going to be my moderator in the debate. Upon arriving in Greenville, we met Bro. Eugene Persell who had driven up from Pascagoula, Miss. in order to hear the debate. Immediately, we went to the home of Mr. Royce Odom, but we found no one there. We then went to the home of his father-in-law, Mr. E. J. Ellard, who was the pastor of the local United Pentecostal Church in

Greenville. We were informed by Mrs. Royce Odom and Mr. E. J. Ellard that Mr. Odom had NOT made arrangements for a place and was NOT going to have the debate as planned and that he was in Gulfport, Miss., which is about 300 miles south of Greenville. We spent the night in Greenville and the next day we tried to contact Mr. Odom by phone but we were not able to do so. We then returned home.

We do not know how many people drove to Greenville to hear the debate, but we heard of several who did.

Although Mr. Odom agreed to have the debate in Greenville, he did NOT IN ANY WAY contact me to inform me that he would NOT debate as the agreement stated. It has been two (2) months SINCE I drove three hundred and fifty (350) miles to Greenville for the debate, and he KNOWS I went and he still has not contacted me to tell me WHY he did NOT honor his word and apologize for his conduct.

I do not KNOW why Mr. Odom did not meet me in debate, but it may have been that he NEVER intended to although he signed the agreement or his "courage" may have failed him. If the latter is true, the least he could have done would have been to be honest and said so! I deplore such conduct but I am not surprised! Most false teachers seem to have no scruples against lying. They speak lies in hypocrisies, make lies their refuge and by their lies cause people to err. (See 1 Tim. 4:1-2; Isa. 28:15; Jer. 23:32; Tit. 1:10-14).

I have signed propositions with two other United Pentecostal Church preachers, Mr. D. L. Welch and Mr. J. D. Childress, but neither of them will correspond with me in order for us to work out the details and have the debates. We signed the propositions nearly four years ago. It seems that some men do not value their word very highly.

We should expose the folly of men who ho'd the truth in unrighteousness. (See Rom. 1:16-18; 2 Tim. 3:9). Let us fight an aggressive battle against sin and error. (Jude 3; 2 Cor. 10:3-6).

(CRS)

## IS THE SECOND COMING NEAR?

This is a question that no one can answer. Men have often set dates for Christ to return but they were all false prophets. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matt. 24:36). No man on earth knows when He will come and there's no need to be excited by the speculations of preachers, for He will not come when He is expected. "For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night." (1 Thess. 5:2). If he knew when the thief would come a man could be prepared. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:43-44).

Some foolishly think that the Lord has already returned. "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there: believe it not." (Matt. 24:23-24). His coming will not be secret, but He will be seen as lightning that shines from the east to the west. (Matt. 24:27). Neither will He be visible to only a few. "Every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him." (Rev. 1:7). He will come literally and be seen by all persons, whether righteous or wicked. He will come with all the holy angels, so how could it be secret or already past? (Matt. 25:31).

Christ's coming will mark the end of time when the righteous will be separated from the disobedient and every person will receive his eternal reward. (Matt. 25:31-46). Those who do not obey the gospel will be sent away into everlasting punishment. (2 Thess. 1:7-9). No one will have a chance to repent after He comes for "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Pet. 3:10). Therefore, we must stand prepared. (Luke 12:40).

—Harold Thurman in "Gospel Minutes".

## BEWARE!

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). Christians are engaged in a lifetime struggle with sin. We must constantly be alert remembering that:

Sin is SEASONAL. Moses refused "to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a SEASON." (Heb. 11:24). This recognizes that there is some pleasure in sin but reminds us that the sorrow which comes at the end of sin's pleasureable season is never worth the pleasure of that season.

Sin is a SEEKER. The Bible warns, "Be sure your sin will find you out." (Num. 32:23). In 1950 eleven men stole \$2,775,395 in the great Brinks robbery. For four years and 361 days it appeared they had committed a "perfect crime." But just four days before the statute of limitations expired and the crime could not have been enacted upon, the F.B.I. caught them. Sin always seeks out its doer and sooner or later destroys him.

Sin is a SEPARATOR. Isaiah lamented over Israel, "Your sins have separated you and your God." (Isa 59:2). Sin subtly but surely brings a breach between man and God, until eventually the separation is for eternity.

Sin is SLAVERY. Jesus teaches, "Everyone that commits sin is the slave of sin." (John 8:34). Sin works like a vise in slowly binding its victim until escape is impossible. Let us ever be thankful that we can conquer sin.

—Ellis Long in POWER FOR TODAY.

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PLEASE SEND US YOUR  
ZIP CODE! THANKS!

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## THE SUTTON-CANNON DEBATE

The debate with Mr. E. F. Cannon was conducted in Pascagoula, Miss., as was planned. We had a good discussion. Interest was high, good order prevailed and Mr. Cannon conducted himself as a gentleman. I trust that much good was accomplished.

We invited Mr. Cannon to come to Albertville for another public discussion of the "Godhead" and "Music" question. He said he would come, but he would not say WHEN. We want him to come but I predict that he will NOT!

(Continued from page 1)

### ARE THERE THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD?

saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:16-17). Now, we all accept Matthew's record as being inspired and therefore accurate, don't we? Then it is now time to ask questions:

1. IF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE ONE PERSON, then WHAT DID JESUS SEE when He came up out of the water? Was He looking in a mirror? And if so, had He Himself changed into the form of a dove? THAT was exactly WHAT he saw; the Holy Spirit in FORM OF A DOVE. (Editor's note: Luke's account in Luke 3:22, the KJV says: "in a bodily shape like a dove upon him.")

2. IF JESUS AND THE FATHER ARE ONE PERSON, then WHO SPAKE FROM HEAVEN? Was Jesus "throwing His voice?" What would be the purpose of such an act? Did Someone actually SPEAK from heaven as Matthew says? If so, then Jesus and the Father have individual and separate personalities. The voice came from HEAVEN, but Jesus was on the EARTH!

Friends, the truth is so plain. There is truly ONE God, but He is manifested

in THREE PERSONS. This account in Scripture is a perfect illustration of that fact. Here we see Jesus on the earth, the Holy Spirit descending as a dove and lighting upon Him, and the Father speaking from heaven all at ONE AND THE SAME TIME. The teaching of the "Jesus only" doctrine carried to its logical conclusions would make this the greatest "slight of hand" performance in history. God doesn't deal in deceit and treachery. Why accept error when the truth is so easy to believe? The truth alone will free you from the shackles of error and sin.

—W. P. Jolly in the "Restoration Banner"

#### — SCHEDULE —

##### LORD'S DAY:

Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Worship ..... 11:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Study ..... 7:00 p.m.

##### RADIO PROGRAM

Monday thru Friday at 11:15 a.m.  
over WBSA, 1300 on the Dial!

PLEASE ATTEND SERVICES AND  
LISTEN TO THE RADIO PROGRAM!

## Sentence Sermons

There will be no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.

Some people have too much to live on, and too little to live for.

Instead of praying for lighter loads, Christians should pray for greater strength.

People are not honored for what they receive, but for what they give.

It is better to think a good thought about a bad man, than to think an evil thought about a good man.

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1003 Baltimore Ave.  
Albertville, Ala. 35950

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