

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Timothy 3:16

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DANGEROUS THINKING

In Proverbs 23:7 Solomon said, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." Again he said, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." (Prov. 4:23). Jesus also had much to say about thinking, as in Matt. 12:34, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Thinking controls our lives. The thoughts we have are the determining factors in our lives. Our thoughts, then should be right.

We should allow God to control our thinking, for we are not able to think as we ought when we depend entirely on ourselves. We cannot think of a way to save ourselves. We must allow God to do that for us. The gospel came from God and is his plan. We must not get the wrong ideas of God. The Bible tells us that ours is a God of love, mercy, justice, and truth. He is not some terrible orge just waiting for a chance to jump on us and consume us. We should get the Bible idea of God so that we can feel His presence and come to depend on Him as being a Friend that is ever near. But, we must not forget that in Heb. 12:29 Paul said, "For our God is a consuming fire." God will finally take vengeance on them that do not obey Him.

Many think wrongly about con-

science when they depend on it as a guide. Conscience is rather a judge of conduct. If we have been taught that a thing is wrong and do it, our conscience condemns us, but if we do what we believe to be right our conscience approves. We should depend upon what the Bible says to guide us.

Many people think wrongly about how to come to God. They have some traditional ideas in regard to the matter that are not found in the Bible. They think that prayer alone, or faith alone, or faith and prayer are all that matters. This is not what the Lord has said. He enjoins faith and prayer, (not prayer for the alien sinner but Christians—CRS) but He also demands obedience to His gospel. He tells us in 2 Thess. 1:7-8 that the Lord is coming to take vengeance on them that obey not the gospel.

Many Christians have the wong attitude about their difficulties. 1 Pet. 4:12 says, "Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trials that are to come upon you." Difficulties are going to come. Trials are going to come. We will always have problems to confront us. The solving of these is what makes us capable and strong. Running from them makes us weak.

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Editorial . . .

Why Do You Believe...? (No. 2)

In our study last month we emphasized the importance of knowing **WHAT** we believe and **WHY** we believe it. We suggested that we must believe the right thing in order to be saved eternally. The question was raised and discussed as to "why do you believe what you do?" We showed that some people "believe" what they do because **THE MAJORITY** of people accept certain things as being so. It was suggested that some people's "faith" is based on their "**FEELINGS**" while others believe what they do because of **THE TRADITIONS OF MEN**. We emphasized that our faith must be based on what the Word of God says and not on the opinion of **THE MAJORITY**, our **FEELINGS**, or **THE TRADITIONS OF MEN**. Let us now further study "Why do you believe what you do?"

A GOOD CONSCIENCE?

Would you try to justify your religious "belief" and practice on the basis of your having a good conscience? Would you say that you believe you can go to heaven in a denomination because you have "a good conscience?" Would you contend that you have been saved without baptism because you have "a good conscience?" Would you al-

lege that it is right to call the preacher "Reverend" or "father" or "rabbi" because you can do so with a "good conscience?" Would you try to justify churches raising money for their work by begging campaigns, pie suppers, rummage sales, car washes, selling flowers or candy, or engaging in some other secular business by saying that you can encourage such with a "good conscience" because you see "no harm" in it? Now really, **WHY** do you believe **WHAT** you do? Is it because of what the Word of God says or because of a "good conscience?" If the Word of God authorizes these things, please cite us the passage of Scripture! Remember, the apostle Paul said he had lived in "all good conscience before God until this day." (Acts 23:1). Yet during that time he said he verily thought within himself that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, which he also did. He had a "good conscience" even while shutting up saints in prison and giving his voice against them, condemning them to die. He was exceedingly mad against them and punished them in the synagogues and compelled them to blaspheme. (See Acts 26:9-11). Does this sound like a person should believe a thing is right merely because he may have a "good conscience?" Surely not! **WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO?**

"IT'S A GOOD WORK"

Many people are deceived into thinking what they do about some things because someone says: "It's a good work." Do you believe that it is right for churches to build, maintain, or make contributions out of their treasuries to human societies such as The Tennessee Orphan Home, Childhaven, Boles Orphan Home and The Home For The Aged because someone has told you that "it's a good work?" Would you encourage churches to support such "sponsoring church" arrangements as "The Herald of Truth" because you have been led to believe

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WHY DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

(by human testimony) that "it's a good work?" Do you believe that it is the work of the church to provide or sponsor recreation, entertainment or social projects because human testimony (and persuasion) has told you that "it's a good work?" Of course, we are told by Paul to "be ready unto every good work," (Tit. 3:1), but in order for a work to be "good", the Scriptures must furnish us unto it. (2 Timothy 3:16-17). If the Scripture furnishes us to the works mentioned in this article, please be kind enough to point out to me WHERE? Are you willing to do it?

"I LIKE IT"

Friends, is there anything you believe to be right in spiritual matters because you like it? Please be honest. I hear many people speak as if this is why they believe what they do. Do you believe in "praying through" for salvation or "faith only" because you like it? Do you try to justify sprinkling for baptism, wearing human names, using mechanical instruments of music in worship or calling the preacher "reverend" because you like it? Would you really condone smoking, drinking, cursing, swearing, gambling, dressing immodestly and women having short hair, etc., because you like it? Would you contend that churches may contribute to institutional orphanages, sponsoring church arrangements like the Herald of Truth, recreational, entertainment, and social projects because you like it?

CONCLUSION

If you do not believe that any of the things mentioned in this article are right because of **THE MAJORITY, YOUR FEELINGS, THE TRADITIONS OF MEN, A GOOD CONSCIENCE, "IT'S A GOOD WORK"**, or because **YOU LIKE IT**, but you do believe these things are right because they are taught (or authorized) in God's Word, please be kind enough to send me the passage or passages in which these things are authorized. I will examine

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There's A Difference

What are the characteristics of Christ's church?

(1) It accepts the Bible as furnishing all instructions needed or allowed, (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Rev. 22:18-19); hence, rejects all human creeds and names.

(2) It accepts the apostolic teaching that people should believe, repent, confess and be baptized to become Christians. (Acts 16:31; 2:38).

(3) It teaches that the Scriptures thoroughly furnish the man of God "unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

Hence, it rejects all human aids to the worship and work, such as the organ, church suppers and societies. Can any one show where the apostolic church ever wore a human name, made a human creed, gave a church entertainment, used instrumental music in worship, formed societies, taught sprinkling or pouring to be baptism, or that people were saved without baptism? It cannot be done, and very few will undertake the task. Will anyone here try?

In the apostolic church, no preacher was every called "Reverend" or "the pastor." Every scholar who has carefully investigated knows that the words "elders," "pastors," and "bishops" all refer to the same class—the overseers (elders of each congregation, Acts 20:17, 28) — and not to the preachers as a class. "Rev. Paul," "Dr. James, the pastor of our church," is not the language of God's book. Peter says, "Speak as the oracles of God." (1 Pet. 4:11). Why disobey him?

—Gayle Oler in

JUST A MOMENT, 4-22-50

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WHY DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

them carefully and if they do authorize such, I will believe and teach them also. If such is not found in God's Word, would you be honest enough to give them up and accept only that which is taught in the Book of God—

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DANGEROUS THINKING

and cowardly. Thinking about them as being greater than those of others is a dangerous thing, for it weakens our resistance to Satan.

Thinking bitter thoughts, planning vengeance, building up hatreds are all dangerous because they tend to destroy all the finer impulses of our being. They will eat as a canker into our moral and spiritual being. We need to replace them with thoughts of pity, of love, of trying to understand our brother who may have mistreated us.

False pride, and vainglory are also dangerous thoughts to allow to dwell in our hearts. Thinking about the lusts of the flesh is highly unprofitable as well as dangerous. Lustful thoughts

are apt to come out in actions.

God, through Paul, warns us of the danger of thinking we cannot fall. (1 Cor. 10:12). We need to be ever alert, and walking close to God. On the other hand thinking defeatism and fear is dangerous. The Christian has nothing to fear except sin. Paul has said that we can do all things that we need to do through Christ who strengthens us.

Phil. 4:8 tells us the things about which we need to think. "Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report: if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things."

—Reeder Oldham in

THE FRIENDLY VISITOR

CONSIDER

"When you see a dirty face in the mirror you wash the face, not the glass. Don't try to make God's Word read differently but rather bring your spiritual activities into alignment with it. Remember, friend, it isn't the mirror—IT'S YOU!"

—Selected

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WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

the Bible! Isn't this a fair proposition? Honesty and a genuine concern for the truth and salvation demand that you deal candidly with these matters.

Friends, **WHAT** do **YOU** believe and **WHY** do you believe it? This is what will matter in the day of judgement!

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

War does not determine who is right, but only who is left.

The spirit in which a thing is done is often as important and as influential as the thing itself.

You can't repent too soon because you do not know how soon it may be too late.

In a heated argument, the best weapon to hold is your tongue.

Sometimes your natural bent needs to be broken.

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