

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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THE SERMONETTE EVIL

Someone has said that sermonettes are preached by preacherettes and produce Christianettes. If that be true there is real danger that the church will be filled with Christianettes in the near future.

That this trend is contrary to the examples found in the New Testament no one can successfully deny. At Troas "Paul preached unto them . . . and continued his speech until midnight And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sank down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead." After Paul restored him to life he "talked a long while, even till the break of day." (Acts 20:7-11). This was certainly not a sermonette.

It might be said, however, that the sermon Peter preached on Pentecost was short. Certainly the time required to read this sermon as recorded in Acts 2 would not be very great. But verse 40 says, "And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation." We have no way of knowing just how long Peter actually preached. Certainly the above Scripture tells us plainly that his was not a modern 15-minute sermonette.

No one would contend that a preacher should make his sermons long merely for sake of length. A fifteen minute sermon stretched to an hour and a half certainly gets too thin. But if he has the spiritual food in his sermons that they should contain to make and develop strong Christians it will take some time to present each one to the audience. Certainly by careful preparation many sermons can be presented in much less time than is sometimes used. But to condense too much is to take away the beauty and personal touch until it is no longer appealing. Who wants to replace his delicious meals with concentrated vitamin tablets and dehydrated foods?

David said, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (Psa. 122:1). If a person is thus interested in worshipping God he will not complain if the sermon is a little long. Those who complain at a sermon of reasonable length are not really interested in worshipping God at all. They merely want to salve their consciences or they would not attend the services at all.

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

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Editorial

"The Just Shall Live By Faith"

In Romans 1:17 the apostle Paul said, "The just shall live by faith." This fact is also stated in Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11 and Hebrews 10:28. Faith is a great and very important subject. Faith is important because by faith we please God. (See Hebrews 11:6). Faith is important because by faith we have remission of sins. (See Acts 10:43). Faith is important because by faith we are justified. (See Romans 5:1). Faith is important because by faith we are saved. (See Acts 16:31). Faith is important because by faith Christians can overcome the world. (See 1 John 5:4).

THE JUST

Not only is faith important because of the above reasons, but it is of great value because "the just shall live by faith." Not all shall live by faith, but the JUST shall live by faith! Those who are righteous are just. To be just or righteous, one must be "justified" by grace, (see Rom. 3:24), by faith, (see Romans 5:1), and by works. (See James 2:24). To be just or righteous one must do "righteousness." (See Acts 10:34-35; 1 John 3:7; Romans 1:16-17).

Not all shall live by faith, but the just SHALL LIVE! The just shall enjoy many blessings. (See Eph. 1:3). The just shall have spiritual life here with manifold blessings. (See Romans 6:3-4; Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 1:3). The just shall have an abundant life here and in the world to come eternal life. (See John 10:10; Mark 10:30; 1 John 2:25; Titus 1:2). The unjust (those who are wicked) will be cast into the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone "which is the second death." (See Rev. 21:8).

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH

Although the just shall live by faith, they do not live by faith only. See Mark 16: 15-16; Romans 5:1; James 2:14-26 and Gal. 5:6. The just shall not live by a dead faith, (see James 2:17), a little faith, (See Matthew 6:25-33; Matthew 8: 26; Matthew 14:31), or by a weak faith. (See Romans 4:19; Romans 14:1).

The just shall not live by the law of Moses, by opinions of men, nor by the creeds and doctrines of men. (See Romans 3:28; Romans 7:4; Matthew 15:9).

The just shall live by faith, but not by faith in men and their teachings nor in relatives or the plants of men. (See Matthew 15:8-9; Matthew 15:13).

THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD AND IN CHRIST

The faith by which the just shall live "cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (See Romans 10:17). The faith by which the just shall live is unfeigned faith. (See 2 Timothy 1:5). The faith by which the just shall live is great faith. (See Matthew 8:10). The faith by which the just shall live is precious. To live by faith we must have sufficient love to work and walk in God's way! (See Gal. 5:6 & 2 Cor. 5:7).

Are you JUST? Are you LIVING spiritually? Are you living BY FAITH? We urge you to have sufficient faith by which to live!
(CRS)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The only life worth living is the Christians life, and the only way which offers hope is the "way of the cross." A more detailed consideration of this life reveals that there are certain qualities that inhere in it. Notice:

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CHOSEN LIFE:

It is wholly up to us. God forces no man to observe that which is distasteful to him, nor requires of him that which he is unwilling to do. True, the course we choose determines our destiny; but, should we be willing to accept the consequences rather than attempt to please God, we are free to do so. "The Spirit and the Bride say, Come; let him that heareth say, Come; let him that is athirst, come; and, **whosoever** will, let him drink of the water of life freely. (Rev. 22:17).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CHANGED LIFE:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature." (2 Cor. 5:17). One can no more become a Christian and live as he lived before than he can enter into the married state without undergoing a change in his life. Many who comply with "the form of doctrine" have shown by their failure to "put on the new man" that their heart was not in it.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CONSECRATED LIFE:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren . . . that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice . . ." (Romans 12:1). "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58). "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." (Gal. 2:20). "Set your affections on things above, and not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:1).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CHASTENED LIFE:

"For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." (Hebrews 12:6). "We must through much tribulation enter into

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THE SERMONETTE EVIL

Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:1-2). The person who obeys this command will enjoy worshipping God. If you do not now enjoy it you should "set your affections on things above." This is as much a command as any other command God has given. The fact that God commands it shows clearly that it is possible for man to obey it. You can learn to enjoy worshipping God. Suppose you fail to learn his lesson while in this life. What would be your plight if you were to go to heaven, but could not endure a long period of worship throughout eternity. Those who tire of worship quickly would be entirely out of place in that eternal city. The fact is they will never go there. "Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:28). Those who do not anxiously await His return will not be received up by Him. Those who anxiously await His return will be glad to spend time in studying His word and worshipping Him.

—Elam B. Kuykendall in GOSPEL DIGEST, June 1954

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22). "Brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations: Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:2-3).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CROWNED LIFE:

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life." (James 1:12). The Christian is promised a crown, but only if he is faithful. Paul anticipated a crown because he had persevered: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course; I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the

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THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”

—Aubrey Belue in TIDINGS OF TRUTH

IT TAKES COURAGE:

To live according to our convictions.

To be what you are and not pretend to be what you are not.

To say “NO” squarely and firmly when those around you say “YES.”

To stay home evenings and try to improve yourself when your comrades spend their evenings having a good time.

To remain in honest poverty when others grow rich by questionable methods which you could easily use yourself.

To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it.

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The Sutton-Hill Debate

The SUTTON-HILL DEBATE has not been re-scheduled because the West Hobbs St. brethren in Athens (and Albert Hill) have refused for over one year to set the date. Keep in mind the fact that they agreed to set a date within a short time. That agreement was made in April of 1974. We are still waiting for them to “honor” their agreement.

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IT TAKES COURAGE

To stand up for an absent party who is being abused.

To not bend the knee to popular prejudice, but to stand firmly erect while others are bowing and fawning for praise and power.

BUT GOD WILL HELP YOU HAVE THE COURAGE.

(Phil. 4:13).

(Author Unknown)

Sentence Sermons

Some folks look ahead, some look back, but most folks look confused.

A bitter world cannot be sweetened by a sour religion.

Speaking of tranquilizers, even back in Grandpa's day there was something to make people sleep. They called it work.

A lot of people waste too much sympathy on themselves.

Nothing is harder for most people to see than the obvious.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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