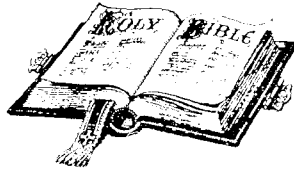


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 Church—A Sufficient Relationship!

The church was in God's eternal purpose to play a part in God's scheme of redemption. Paul said: **"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord."** (Eph. 3:10-11).

There are many people who fail to recognize the **sufficiency of the church** because they **do not know** what the New Testament teaches about the church. It teaches that Jesus Christ is **the builder of the church**. It was Jesus who said: **"... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** (Matt. 16:18). He is also **the head of the church**. Col. 1:18 says: **"And He is the head of the body, the church..."** and Eph. 1:22-23 says: **"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body..."** The New Testament also teaches that the church **was purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ**. (See Acts 20:28 & Eph. 5:25).

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The church is the body of penitent baptized believers who have been called out of the world, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells and over which Christ is the supreme Head. It accepts the New Testament as its all-sufficient rule of faith and practice and condemns all human creeds as abominable unto God. It has no creed book but the New Testament, no Saviour but the Christ, no names but the divine ones, no message but

the true gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and no purpose but to save.

The members of the body of Christ are neither Jewish, Catholic nor Protestant, but they are simply Christians. The Lord's church contends for unity in Christ, (See John 17), for divine authority in worship, work and organization, and for complete purity in life. The lost can receive salvation by being in the church, the wayward can find refuge and all who die in its fellowship because of their faithfulness to God can have eternal hope. The church endeavors to defend and contend for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints. (See Jude 3 & Acts 15). The church of God is **"the pillar and ground of the truth."** (See 1 Tim. 3:15).

There is no worship, work or service that a Christian is to render that he can not render in and as a member of the body of Christ. **Yes, the church is a sufficient relationship!**
SUFFICIENT TO RAISE MONEY

Some churches (congregations) are very loose in regards to what God's Word teaches about financing their work. God's plan of finance for the church is very simple in nature. In 1 Cor. 16:2 Paul said: **"upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him,** that there be no gatherings when I come." Paul ordered the Corinthians (and other saints) the same as he had ordered the churches of Galatia. This was not a matter of choice, but of command. Please note that Christians are to lay-by-in-store (i.e. give of their means) upon the first day of the week. This

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

HUSBANDS: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

(No. 4)

Husbands who are concerned about doing God's will should leave their parents and cleave unto their wives. They should not be bitter against them nor put them away. They should learn to dwell with them according to knowledge and to take their places as heads over their wives and provide for them. They do not assert their "rights" as "boss," but they assume and fulfill their responsibilities as head. Good husbands give diligence to render unto their wives due benevolence. They fulfill their own sexual desires in the marriage relationship and they are careful to not deprive their wives of sexual fulfillment.

SHOULD LOVE

"And the Lord God said, **It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.**" (Gen. 2:18). **God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam and He took one of Adam's ribs and made a woman and brought her to Adam. Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh." Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**" (See Gen. 2:23-24).

In writing to the saints at Colossee, Paul said: "**Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.**" (Col. 3:19). Paul commanded husbands in Eph. 5:25 saying: "**Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it. . .**" In Eph. 5:28-33 Paul also said: "**So ought**

men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh . . . Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; . . ." God's command to husbands is clear. **Husbands are commanded to love their wives!**

The husband's love for his wife should be self-sacrificial. It should impel him to give himself in self-sacrifice for the well-being of his wife. The husband's love should be passionate, affectionate and considerate. It should be warm and kind.

True love suffers long and is kind. It is not easily provoked, is not selfish and does not behave itself unseemly. A genuine concern for the feelings and well-being of the wife is the responsibility of every husband.

True love does not prompt the husband to mistreat his wife. Husbands who truly love their wives do not abuse, threaten or deceive them. Neither do they tell others about all of her faults. Husbands should never act in such a manner so as to cause people to think they don't love their wives. Husbands should realize that "**whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.**" (Prov. 18:22).

SHOULD GIVE HONOUR

Peter said: "**Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; and that your prayers be not hindered.**" (1 Peter 3:7).

A husband should highly esteem and greatly value his wife. He should consider her "precious." This will cause him to "honour" her as the weaker vessel. He should treat her with courtesy, dignity, kindness, respect and special deference.

The husband should not consider his wife weaker intellectually or spiritually, but he should give honour to her as one who is weaker emotionally and, in most cases, physically. She should not be "scolded" because she gets upset more often and cries more easily than the husband.

Husbands, "live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun." (Eccl. 9:9).

Are you fulfilling your responsibilities toward your wife?

(CRS)

Whose Prayers Will God Accept

Although prayer is a great privilege and blessing for some people, there are many people whose prayers God will not accept.

GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT PRAYERS OF SINNERS. The blind man to whom Jesus restored his sight said: "**Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth.**" (John 9:31). A long time before the blind man said that, Isaiah said: "**Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it can not save; neither his ear heavy, that it can not hear. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.**" (Isaiah 59:1-2).

GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO DISREGARD HIS LAW. Solomon said: "**He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**" (Prov. 28:9). Consider also John 9:31.

GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ARE EVIL. The Apostle Peter said: "**...but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.**" (1 Peter 3:12).

GOD WILL NOT ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO REGARD INIQUITY IN THEIR HEARTS. The Psalmist said: "**If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me, But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.**" (Psalms 66: 18-19).

If you are in either of the above classes of people mentioned, the Lord will not accept your prayers.

GOD WILL ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ARE RIGHTEOUS. Peter said: "**For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: . . .**" (1 Pet. 3:12).

GOD WILL ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM AND DO HIS WILL. The blind man to whom Jesus restored his sight said: '**Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth.**' (John 9:31).

GOD WILL ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. John said: "**And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.**" (1 John 3:22).

GOD WILL ACCEPT THE PRAYERS OF THOSE WHO ASK ACCORDING TO HIS

WILL. John said: "**And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us.**" (1 John 5:14).

When we consider all the teaching in God's word on prayer, we must conclude that an alien sinner can not be saved by prayer. To be in position to pray with the assurance that God will accept one's prayer, he must believe, repent, confess and be baptized into Christ. (Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:9-10 & Gal. 3:26-27). We must also conclude that God does not answer the prayers of His children who live in sin. **But we can rejoice in the fact that God will and does answer the prayers of His children who faithfully follow His word and pray according to His will.**

DO YOU HAVE THE BLESSED ASSURANCE THAT GOD WILL ACCEPT YOUR PRAYERS?

(CRS)

God Is Unchangeable

Daily we witness changes around us in both the plant and animal kingdoms. We also witness weather changes which in turn produce changes in temperatures. As these changes take place, it becomes necessary for us to make changes in our eating, sleeping, working and playing habits as well as in our dress. Changes in styles and fashions and models are occurring frequently.

It is interesting to note that most people are fickle. Certainly men should change from sin to righteousness, but very often men change from right to wrong; from truth to error. Changes are often produced by gossip, lies and false doctrines.

In Malachi 3:6 we read: "**For I am the Lord, I change not. . .**" Although man is subject to change, we are assured that **God is unchangeable.** This does not mean that God's will for man is the same today that it was under the Mosaic age. In fact we learn from Heb. 7:12 that the priesthood was changed, and "**there is made also of necessity a change of the law.**" We are now under the New Testament. (See 1 Cor. 9:21; Heb. 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Jno. 12:48).

God is unchangeable in character. He can not be tempted with evil. He is holy. The Psalmist said: "**Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the Lord our God is holy.**"

(CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

THE CHURCH—A SUFFICIENT RELATIONSHIP

giving into a common treasury is to be according to one's prosperity and cheerfully according as one purposes in his heart. In case of need, one church may send to another church to relieve destitute saints. (Cf. Acts 11:27-30; 2 Cor. 8:12-13; Rom. 15:25-33).

The church is sufficient to raise funds to support its work according to the pattern revealed in the Scriptures.

Some churches raise funds by "begging campaigns," but there is no divine authority for such. Some churches raise funds by engaging in secular businesses, but they do so with out divine authority for their actions. Such activities as pie suppers, bazaars, rummage sales, chili suppers, etc., are used by some churches to raise funds. However, God has not authorized these actions! See 2 John 9.

We have all things that pertain unto life and godliness according to 2 Pet. 1:3. Since the above practices are not found authorized in the Scriptures, they do not pertain unto life and godliness. Since the Scriptures completely furnish us to every good work, it can readily be seen that such practices as mentioned above are **not** good works since we are not furnished unto them in the Scriptures.

(CRS)

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

The HILL-SUTTON DEBATE will be conducted when **Albert Hill** and the "elders" of the West Hobbs Street church in Athens, Alabama regain their courage or develop anew their integrity. This will enable them to re-schedule the debate as they promised to do, but so far they have refused to do. Honour demands their keeping their agreement. When men lose their honour, their word means nothing. We are still waiting for them to set the date.

No, it has not been **four** years since the debate was to have been conducted as stated in the last issue of THE INSTRUCTOR. That was an error. I am sorry for that. Please forgive me. It has only been **three** years.

SUTTON-SHARP DEBATES

The first SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE is scheduled for October 24, 25, 27 & 28, 1977 and is to be conducted in Moulton, Alabama in a building provided by the United Pentecostal Church. "**The Godhead**" will be discussed.

The second SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE is scheduled for April 3, 4, 6 & 7, 1978 and the subject to be discussed is "**Holy Spirit Baptism**." Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend these discussions.

Sentence Sermons

Full trust in the Lord puts anxiety to rest.

It is twice as hard to crush a half truth as it is to crush a whole lie.

A gossip is like an old shoe—its tongue never stays in place.

God never alters the robe of righteousness to fit the man. The man must alter himself to fit the robe of righteousness.

The person who lives only for self is engaged in a very small business.

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