

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 DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

A voluminous amount of material has been written in recent years with reference to the phrase, "**the doctrine of Christ**" and its meaning. Those who have espoused the pseudo-unity plan of ecumenicalism interpret the "**doctrine of Christ**" to mean the doctrine about Christ (i.e., His deity and having come in the flesh). The brethren who believe and teach that we must remain within the jurisdiction and dictates of divine law **MUST REJECT** the theory, that, "**the doctrine of Christ**" is "**the doctrine about Christ.**" The concept is false and leads some to believe that they may widen if they desire, the sphere of fellowship which true believers enjoy, to include those who corrupt the work, worship and organization of the church of the Lord! The pseudo-unity plan of the ecumenicals is heinous in nature and will ultimately result in the eternal ruin of those who embrace its tenets!

Let us study and analyze 2 John 9 in view of what the apostle penned in that particular text. The passage reads, "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**"

THE ANALYSIS

1. "**Whosoever**" is a translation of the two Greek words, (**pas ho**) and literally means "all who, or every one who." It designates **any** and **every** person who falls within the sphere which the apostle mentions. And it

must, for God is certainly not a respecter of persons as is so clearly taught throughout the Scriptures. Note the following: Deut. 10:17; 2 Chron 19:7; 1 Sam 16:7; Romans 2:11 Galatians 2:6, et. al. When a man **OBEYS** God he will be blessed irrespective of **RACE**, **NATIONALITY**, or **SKIN COLOR**. What a rebuke this is to men who harbor racial prejudice in their hearts! The person who **DISOBEYS** God shall receive damnation regardless of his **RACIAL** or national status!

2. "**Transgresseth**" is a translation of the verb (**proago**) which means "to lead forward, go before." This word adequately described the action of those in the first century who were the self-styled progressives or advanced thinkers! They were not progressing toward Christ, but to the contrary, they were marching away from Him. The word likewise faithfully portrays those in this generation who do not want to remain with Divine limitations! They defy the "**OLD PATHS**" and rush headlong into complete apostacy! Progress is only worthwhile when one goeth toward Christ and not away from Him. Those who favor progress must remember that progress must be based on, sustained and regulated by the right book, **THE BIBLE**. Progress must be in the right sphere, **THE TRUTH**, and toward the right person, **THE CHRIST!**

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Editorial . . .

GOD'S DIVINE ORGANIZATION!

In this age of complex, structural, religious organizations, we are pleading for **God's plan of organization** as revealed in the New Testament of the Son of God. It is not very "impressive" to most people. In fact, it is very simple. The "noble" overlook it; the "mighty" do not care for it; the "wise" try to improve upon it, but true Christians gladly accept it because **it is God's way.**

When believers "obey the gospel" they are **added to the church.** Acts 2:47 tells us "...**And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**" The church to which the Lord adds all those who are saved is the universal church. It has Christ as its **head and Saviour.** Paul said: "**For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Saviour of the body.**" (Ephesians 5:23). The universal church has no earthly form of government. Viewing the church universally, there is only **one** true church. In a local or congregational sense, there are many churches or congregations. The local church (or congregation) is composed of baptized believers in a certain locality who

have joined or banded themselves together under Christ to worship and work as a collectivity or group or unit. These believers function organizationally, or in other words, in organized capacity. They function as a collectivity or as a unit. They make up a congregation or church. When fully organized, they have "elders" (pastors) as "overseers" and "deacons" as special servants. There is always a plurality of elders in each congregation. In Acts 14:23 we learn that Paul and Barnabas ordained **elders** (not merely an elder) "**in every church.**" In Acts 20:17 we are told that from Miletus Paul "sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church." In writing the Philippian letter Paul mentioned the "**bishops** (or elders) and **deacons.**" (See Phil. 1:1). Elders are limited in their oversight to the "flock of God" which is among them. (See 1 Peter 5:1-4).

God has NOT authorized any organization either larger or smaller than the local church (congregation) through which God's people are to accomplish the work of the church, whether the work is evangelism, edification or benevolence. See Ephesians 4:12-16, 1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:7-8 and Timothy 5:16 to learn what God has authorized the church to do. Missionary, Edification and Benevolent Societies are NOT authorized in God's Book! **God's divine organization** (the local church) **is sufficient!**

When men form human organizations through which God's people are to function in "organized capacity" to accomplish the mission of the church, they show their ignorance of or their dissatisfaction with God's Way and they cross the threshold of apostasy.

(CRS)

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DID JESUS DIE FOR ALL?

5. John said: "**All he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.**" (1 John 2:2).

6. Hebrews 2:9 says "**that he (Jesus) by the grace of God SHOULD TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN.**"

Yes, Jesus Christ died, not only for the elect, but for all men!

(CRS)

3. **"And abideth not"** (*kai me menon*) has practically the same meaning as the word "transgresseth" in that both describe one who advances beyond prescribed limits. The individual finds himself following the "unholy" course. He is not **within** the realm of sacred truth for he has transgressed and therefore "abideth not."

4. **"The doctrine of Christ"** is the phrase that tells what he fails to abide in!! The word doctrine is from **didache** and means "teaching, instruction." This teaching is "of Christ" because he originally taught it and still does through the words of the apostles which we have preserved in writing. The doctrine of Christ includes the teaching of Christ relative to marriage, baptism, the worship, work and organization of the church, etc., etc.

5. **"Hath not God"** refers to the fact that the individual who does not remain in the teaching which emanated from Christ IS NOT IN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD! He has forsaken the only way that anyone can enjoy this communion with God, i.e., by **abiding in** the doctrine of Christ. To "have not God" is to be lost; doomed forever because of our unwillingness to remain within Divinely appointed bounds!

6. **"He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."** The phrase "he that abideth" is in the Greek text **ho menon** and literally means "the one who keeps on remaining." This describes one who keeps a straight course, going to neither the right nor the left of Divine truth. He regards the gospel as the body of sacred truth which has been once for all given to mankind. As he holds the straight course in the truth, his fellowship is with the Father and the Son. What more could one seek than the approval of the Godhead in every department of life?

Let us strive for unity upon a Scriptural basis. Unity is to be attained ONLY if we adhere to the truth of God. (John 17:19-22). False unity is what some brethren desire. **THEIR DESIRE IS NOT THE WILL OF THE LORD AND AS LONG AS THEY PERVERT 2 JNO. 9 THE CURSE OF GOD RESTS UPON THEM.** (Gal. 1:6-9; Rev 22:18-19).

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Three Essentials Of True Worship

God does **not** accept **ignorant** worship (Acts 17), **will** worship (Col. 2:18-23), or **vain** worship (Matthew 15: 7-9). God accepts only **true** worship. (Read and carefully study John 4:23-24). Jesus said: **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth."** This is a fact: it **does** matter **how** we worship and **who** or **what** we worship! Jesus said that we **MUST worship God in spirit and in truth!** The word **"must"** show it is **obligatory**. Please consider that Jesus points out clearly that **there are three essentials of true worship**. He points out that there must be:

1. **THE RIGHT OBJECT — GOD.** All worship is directed toward some object. Jesus Christ said: **"God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him..."** (John 4:24). He also said: "...for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:10). The Old Testament saints directed their worship to the God of heaven and earth as long as they were faithfully following his word. When they turned away from God's Word, they turned to idols as their object of worship on different occasions. The God of heaven and earth and all things that are therein must be the object of our worship.

2. **THE RIGHT ATTITUDE — IN SPIRIT.** A long time ago the Psalmist said: **"God is greatly to be feared** in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." (Psalms 89:7). As Christ said: "...and they that worship him must worship him in spirit ..." Our worship must be from a heart of humility and sincerity. We must show respect, reverence and adoration for our Creator. Malice, wrath, envy, hatred or hypocrisy have no place in our hearts as we worship God.

3. **THE RIGHT WAY — IN TRUTH.** Jesus said: **"...and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."** (John 4:24). To worship **"in truth"** is to worship according to God's Word which is truth. (See

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THREE ESSENTIALS OF TRUE WORSHIP

John 17:17). We show reverence and respect for God by **doing what he says**. We learn from God's Word that Christians are to "**break bread**," i.e., observe the Lord's Supper, (1 Cor. 11:23-29, Acts 20:7), **give** (lay by in store), (1 Cor. 16:2), **teach**, (Acts 2:42; 20:7), **sing**, (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19), and **pray to God** as our Father, (Acts 2:42; 12:5; 1 Cor. 14:15-17). **Breaking bread** and **giving** are two acts that are limited to the first day of the week. (See Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). The other three acts of worship may be engaged in at any time.

We dare not add to, take from, or substitute for the word of God in our worship and service. James 2:12 says: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

Friends, you can not afford to ever suggest not listen to any one who does say that "it doesn't matter how you worship God just as long as you are sincere." The God who made you has every right to demand of you anything that he may deem wise. You have no say-so whatever in what pleases God. He has already spoken. It is left up to you to choose to accept or reject his will. Which will you do in worship?

(CRS)

DID JESUS DIE FOR ALL?

Did Jesus of Nazareth die on the cross and shed his blood only for a few people? Or did he die on the cross of Calvary for all people? Please consider the following passages and I believe you will see that the Scriptures teach that Jesus died for all.

1. Jesus said: "**For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed FOR MANY for the remission of sins.**" (Matt. 26:28).

2. Paul said: "**For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom FOR ALL, to be testified in due time.**" (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

3. Paul said: "**But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet SINNERS, Christ died for us.**" (Romans 5:8).

4. Hebrews 9:28 says: "**So Christ was once OFFERED TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY...**"

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WE ARE WAITING STILL FOR
ALBERT HILL.

Sentence Sermons

The Bible never suffers from neglect, but those who neglect the Bible do.

If we daily stand for truth and right, peace of mind is ours when we retire at night.

Counting time isn't half as important as making time count.

Wise men learn by the mistakes of others; fools insist on learning by their own.

To have friends you must pay the price — be one.

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