

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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FEEBLE MEMBERS NECESSARY

"Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." (I Corinthians 12:22).

The church work is cooperative. Every member is necessary to make it what it ought to be. No member is without value to the church. One can of himself do little, but in cooperation with the entire church he can do worthy things. A wheel of itself is of little value, but fitted into a car it makes a necessary contribution to the ongoing of the automobile. An old iron may seem worthless, but when it is prepared and placed in proper place it works to advantage. It matters little who preaches or leads the singing, the prayers, etc., but it matters much that every member serves where he may best serve. Every member is necessary to the efficiency of the church.

Diligent attention to every detail, to minor and seemingly insignificant things, is the difference between doing things "decently and in order" and living beneath our heritage. "Let all things be done unto edifying." (I Corinthians 14:26).

Great and effectual is the influence of a united church. All of a few men once told, in turn, a well man that he appeared to be ill. The man returned home and took his bed. When each member does his duty, the influence is tremendous, such as to save. Every member is necessary to such

influence. Otherwise the very one who is not giving his moral support to the church may be the one who has determining influence over my boy or over your girl. "Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." They are necessary to the saving of all whom the church should reach. Add to the influence of a united church this sanction of Holy Writ, and the power is effectual.

Ears, eyes, hands and feet are necessary to make the body what it ought to be. It may cripple along after the loss of a hand or foot. So may the church cripple along without all her members. But all are necessary to make her what she ought to be.

He who builds the church is building an institution that will bless his wife, children, father, mother, neighbor, enemy and himself. He who neglects the church is neglecting an organization whose benefits he will sorely need and whose blessings his children will greatly need. "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16).

---John W. Pigg in GOSPEL ADVOCATE,
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Editorial . . .

THINKING THAT GOD IS LIKE MAN

Through the Psalmist we learn that God said to the wicked: **"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."** (Psalms 50:21).

God asked the wicked: **"What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee."** (Psalms 50:16-17). The wicked would take God's covenant in his (the wicked) mouth and declare God's statutes although he would cast God's words behind him because he hated instruction. He would consent with a thief and partake with adulterers. He gave his mouth to evil and his tongue framed deceit. He would sit and speak against his brother. He would slander his own mother's son. Why did the wicked do these things? Why was he hypocritical, unfair, deceitful and immoral? God said to the wicked: **"These things hast thou done, . . . thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself..."** In other words, God suggests that the reason the wicked did evil things was because **he thought that God is a man like himself!** But he was mistaken. God said:

"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver." (Psalms 50:22).

Let us now consider some things that man does because he thinks that God is altogether such a one as himself.

1. **MAN CAN HIDE FROM MAN, SO HE THINKS HE CAN HIDE FROM GOD.** In Genesis 3:8 Adam and Eve **"hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."** But they were not successful. God knew where they were. Proverbs 15:3 says: **"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."** Hebrews 4:13 says: **"Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."** David showed that he could not hide from God when he said: **"Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? . . . Yea the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee."** (Psalms 139: 7-12). No, God is not like man! We can hide from man, but we can not hide from God!

2. **MAN CAN DECEIVE MAN, SO HE THINKS HE CAN DECEIVE GOD.** In Acts 5:1-10 Ananias and Sapphira lied unto God, but they were discovered, exposed and punished. In Galatians 6:7-8 the apostle Paul warns us, saying, **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."**

No, God can not be deceived. God can know the very thoughts and intent of our hearts! We may deceive man, but we can not deceive God!

3. **MAN MAY BE SLACK IN HIS WORD, SO HE IS TEMPTED TO THINK THAT GOD MAY BE LIKE HIM.** However, we learn from 2 Peter 3:9 that **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** As far as God keeping his word, one day is with Him as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

No, God is not slack in keeping his word. Time does not cause him to either forget or consider his word less important. Man may not keep his word, but God is not like man in this respect.

(Continued on Page 3)

THINKING THAT GOD IS LIKE MAN

4. MAN MAY THINK THAT SIN IS NOT SO BAD, SO HE THINKS THAT GOD MAY FEEL THE SAME WAY. God considers sin as a curse. He looks upon it as darkness, fifth, bondage and corruption. God says sin deceives, ladens, destroys good, marks, enslaves and brings reproach and shame. Jesus said: "**Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**" (John 8:34). Isaiah 59:1-2 tells us that it **separates** man from God and hides God's face from man that he will **not** hear and save! Paul tells us that "**the wages of sin is death.**" (Romans 6:23). Sin is defined by CRUDEN as "**any thought, word, action, omission, or desire, contrary to the law of God.**" We learn from 1 John 3:4 that "**sin is the transgression of the law.**"

Although man may consider sin lightly, but God does not so consider it. Sin an affront to God's nature and character. He will not contenance sin!

5. MAN MAY BE BRODED INTO APPROVAL OF ANOTHER, SO HE THINKS HE CAN BRIBE GOD INTO APPROVAL OF HIMSELF BY GIVING SOME THING TO THE POOR, DOING CIVIC WORK OR CLAIMING TO BE RELIGIOUS. Jeremiah 10:23 says that "**the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps.**" We learn from Isaiah 55:8-9 that God's ways and thoughts are as much superior to man's ways and thoughts as the heavens are higher than the earth. James tells us that "**God can not be tempted with evil . . .**" (1:13). God only approves of those who obey Him. (See Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8-9; Luke 6:46; 1 John 5:3; 1 John 2:3).

Yes, man can be bribed into an approval of sin, but God can **not** be so bribed!

6. MAN MAY THINK THAT ONE RELIGION IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER, SO HE THINKS THAT GOD FEELS THE SAME WAY. However, Jesus warned us saying: "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" Matthew 7:13-14). We learn from Matthew 15:7-9 that worship is vain when after the doctrines and commandments of men. In John 10:16 Jesus said: ". . . **there shall be one fold and one**

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shepherd." Paul tells us that "**there is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, . . .**" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Jude tells Christians to "**earnestly contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3). Jesus also said: "**Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.**" (Matthew 15:13).

Although man may think that one religion is as good as another, God does **not** so think and He has **not** so designed it. God's way is the **only** way that will lead to heaven!

Let us examine ourselves and be sure that we are not making the mistake of doing things because we think that God is like man!

(CRS)

DEVIL'S DESCRIPTIONS

Do you know your enemy? How can one successfully fight and overcome the enemy if one does not know him? Our spiritual antagonist is "the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan." (Rev. 20:2). The following depiction by no means exhausts the devil's dimensions, but is merely suggestive. Get to know your enemy.

EVIL MIND

Satan's mind is wicked and he would have you to be of a fleshly, carnal, and reprobate mind. The devil is delighted when one is "vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind." (Col. 2:18). Take soberly this warning: "And even as they refused to have God in their knowledge, God gave them up unto a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not fitting." (Rom. 1:28).

HARD HEART

Secondly, the devil described as letting men to harden their hearts against the saving instructions and wise warnings of God's word. The inspired author of Hebrews warns one against the hardening of the heart. (Heb. 3:8, 15 and 4:7). How pitiful that some are of the devil's dimensions through "blinding of the eyes and hardening of hearts." (John 12:40).

CLOSED FIST

The arch-enemy of mankind does not teach gratitude and thanksgiving. Far

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

DEVIL'S DESCRIPTIONS

from it. "Where are the nine?" Satan says, "Who cares?" The old serpent is gleeful when he sees "grievous times come" filled with people who are "unthankful." (2 Tim. 3:2). The "clashed fist" is descriptive of the devil's anatomy. Do you have one?

WIDE-OPEN MOUTH

Fourthly, the devil's dimensions show a wide-open mouthful of destruction. "He that guardeth his mouth keepeth his life: But he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction." (Prov. 13:3). Satan wants company. The company of fools like himself. "The tongue of the wise uttereth knowledge aright; but the mouth of fools poureth out folly." (Prov. 15:2). Satan sets a snare. Here it is: "A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul." (Prov. 18:7).

HIGH NOSE — HAUGHTY EYES

Haughty high heads are servants of the old serpent. "A high look, and a proud heart, even the lamp of the wicked, is sin." (Prov. 21:4). God hates haughty eyes." (Prov. 6:17). Do you desire honor or destruction? Then heed this passage: "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty; And before honor goeth humility." (Prov. 18:12). The Christ-like individual humbles himself, and does not "think of himself more highly than he

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ought to think" and is "not wise in (his) own conceits." (Romans 12:3, 16). But the puffed up person fits the arrogant anatomy descriptive of the devil. (Cf. 1 Tim. 3:6).

SWIFT FEET

Finally, Satan and his servants have swift feet. That is, "feet that are swift in running to mischief." (Prov. 6:18). It delights the devil to create discord and division. His game is one of mischief leading to misery. "Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes." (Rom. 3:15-18).

These are the devil's descriptions. Do they denote you? Spiritually speaking, what kind of a mind, heart, fist, mouth, nose, eyes, and feet do you have?

Eternity is getting closer with every breath you take.

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---Donald R. Givens in THE EXAMINER

NEHEMIAH 8:10 says: "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye grieved; for the joy of Jehovah is your strength."

Sentence Sermons

He who loves the Word, will receive the power to understand what he loves.

Leisure is a beautiful garment, but it will not do for constant wear. —Franklin

Habit is either the best of servants or the worst of masters. — Emmons

The world owes you a living only when you have earned it.

It is a short road to some people's wit's end.

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