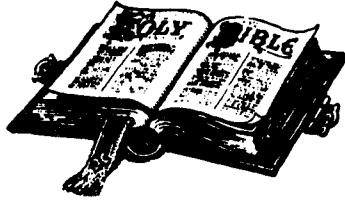


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

Volume 31

JUNE, 1994

Number 6

THE SPIRIT OF MAN

There are many misconceptions about and much error taught concerning the **spirit** (generally, it seems, is used synonymously with the **soul**) of **man**. The only **reliable** information we have about the **spirit of man** is that which is revealed in the Scriptures.

A long time ago Elihu declared that "... **There is a spirit within man . . .**" (Job 32:8). Solomon mentioned "**the spirit of man that goeth upward**" in Eccl. 3:21. People such as Job, David, Isaiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Mary, Stephen, Paul and Jesus spoke of "**my spirit.**" (See Job 7:11; Psa. 142:3; 143:7; Isaiah 26:9; Daniel 2:1-3; Luke 1:47; Acts 7:59; Rom. 1:9; I Cor. 14:14 and Luke 23:46). In his epistle to the Corinthians the apostle Paul mentioned "**the spirit of man which is in him.**" (1 Cor. 2:11).

WHO FORMED THE SPIRIT OF MAN?

On one occasion Moses and

Aaron fell upon their faces, and said: "**O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, . . .**" (Numbers 27:16).

In declaring the **true** God to the Athenians in Acts 17 the apostle Paul affirmed that "... **We are the offspring of God**" and that God "... **giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.**" (Verses 29, 25). He also affirmed that "... **In Him we live, and move, and have our being; . . .**" (Verse 28). In Hebrews 12:9 the inspired writer refers to God as "**the Father of spirits.**"

We learn from Zechariah 12:1 that the LORD "**stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him.**" (Eccl. 12:1).

Within question, the Scriptures teach that **God is the Creator** of our **spirits** as well as the heavens and earth and all things that are therein!

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.
Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Disciples are learners, believers, followers of someone. Those who followed Moses were disciples of Moses. (Cf. John 9:13-28). Those who learned, believed and followed John's teachings were disciples of John. (Cf. Luke 11:1). Matthew 22:16 mentions the "disciples" of the Pharisees.

The word translated **disciple** is defined by VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS as follows: "lit., a learner . . . in contrast to a teacher . . ." He then comments: "hence it denotes one who follows one's teaching, . . . a disciple was not only a pupil, but an adherent; . . ."

In order to go to heaven we must be **disciples of Christ!** We must **learn and follow Jesus Christ!** (See Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16; John 14:6; 8:31-32).

To be a disciple "**in deed**" one must "**continue**" in **Christ's Word!** Many fail to continue to follow Jesus because they failed to "count the cost." In Luke 14:25-33 Jesus emphasized the importance of **counting the cost** of true discipleship. In this study, let us consider **THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP.**

I. IT COST GOD THE FATHER HIS SON! The fact that God sent His

Son into the world to die on the cross for our sins made it possible for us to be His disciples and have access to "**all spiritual blessings . . . in Christ.**" (See John 3:17 & 1 John 4:14). It was God's **love** for the world that prompted Him to give His "**only begotten Son**" as a sacrifice to atone for our sins! (See John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10).

II. IT COST JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, HIS LIFE! In John 10:11 Jesus said: "**I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.**" In Romans 5:8 Paul said: "**For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.**" He also tells us in Titus 2:14 that Christ "**gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**"

It was Christ's **love** that prompted him to give His life (shed His blood in His death) to be the sacrifice for our sins! (See Hebrews 9:28; 10:10-12; 1 John 2:2 and John 15:13).

III. IT WILL COST US FAITH! According to the Hebrew writer ". . . **without faith it is impossible to please Him; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**" (11:6). One must "**believe on His name**" (i.e., the name of Christ) in order to have "**power**" (i.e., the right, or privilege) "**to become**" a child of God! (Cf. John 1:11-12; 20:30-31). One's faith must work! (Cf. James 2:14-26; Gal. 5:6). It is by our **faith** we can be victorious over the world! (Cf. 1 John 5:4). The kind of faith that is required in order to be a true disciple of Jesus comes "**by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" (See Rom 10:17).

IV. IT WILL COST US LOVE! In John 15:9 Jesus said: "**As the Father hath loved me, so have I**

(Continued on page 3)

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

(Continued from page 3)

loved you: continue ye in My love." He also said: "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37). We must love God! (See Matthew 22:37-38; I John 4:19). We must love the brethren! (See Heb. 13:1; Rom. 12:10; John 13:34-35). We must "walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given Himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." (See Eph. 5:2). Our love must be genuine! Our love for God and Christ must prompt us to keep the commandments of God! (See 1 John 5:3).

V. IT WILL COST US SELF-DENIAL! In Luke 9:23 Jesus said: ". . . If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Jesus also said: "So, likewise whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:33).

The Hebrew writer tells us that "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." (11:24-26). Peter exhorts Christians to ". . . abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." (1 Peter 2:11). We should keep in mind that ". . . the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12).

Christ is our example in self-denial!

Romans 15:3 says: "For even Christ pleased not Himself; . . ." Jesus declared: ". . . for I do always those things that please Him" (i.e., the Father). (John 8:29). Every disciple should have the mind of Christ! Paul exhorted: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. . ." (Phil. 2:5). We must NOT love the world, be conformed to the world nor be a friend of the world! (See 1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:2; James 4:4 & John 15:14). We must deny ourselves of all sinful pleasures! Here are some worldly activities that we must deny.

1. Drinking intoxicants! (Cf. Prov. 20:1; 23:29-35; Eph. 5:18 & 1 Peter 4:3).

2. Modern dancing! (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21 & Romans 13:13).

3. Immodest apparel! (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:9; Gal. 5:19-21).

4. Filthy speech! Cf. Eph. 4:29; Prov. 23:7; 4:23 & Psalms 19:14).

5. Watching "filth" at movie theaters, on home videos or television. (Cf. Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Thess. 5:22).

VI. IT WILL COST US SACRIFICE! We learn from Romans 12:1 that we are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. When we choose to do right others will sometimes reject us! (Cf. John 9:18-23). To be a true disciple of Christ we will have to give up the approval of friends and relatives who do not choose to follow Jesus. (Cf. Matthew 10:34-38 & Luke 14:26). As we sacrifice to follow Jesus determination and effort will be required!

VII. IT WILL COST US COURAGE! At times there will be persecutions and afflictions to endure and hardships to face. (Cf. 2 Tim. 1:8; 3:12; 4:5; 4:14-18 & 1 Peter 4:12-16). It will take courage to stand alone as Paul did! It will take courage to stand with others! (Cf. Heb. 10:32-36 & 2 Tim. 1:15-18).

Are you a true disciple of Christ? Are you willing to pay the price? The cost is high but the dividends are great!

(CRS)

SAVED IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE?

Do the Scriptures teach that we can be saved in the twinkling of an eye in 1 Cor. 15:50-52?

A study of 1 Cor. 15:50-52 in its context will reveal that Paul was **not** discussing **salvation!** He was discussing the **resurrection** of the dead and the **changing** from the **corruptible** to the **incorruptible** of those who are **living** at the time of the **resurrection of the dead!**

Carefully consider what Paul said: **“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all BE CHANGED, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound,**

and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and WE SHALL BE CHANGED.”The next verse says: **“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”** NOTE: As can be clearly seen Paul is NOT discussing **being saved** in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye!** He is discussing the fact that those who are **living** when the **resurrection** occurs will be **changed** in a moment, **IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE!**

No one should be confused **about** this point after studying the context of the expression **“in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye!”** (CRS)

I COR. 16-13 says: **“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”** TAKE HEED!

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Actions speak louder than words, but not nearly as often!

* * * * *

If you don't care **where** you're going, **any** road will get you there!

* * * * *

A friend is one who knows all about you and loves you just the same!

* * * * *

“Money is a good **servant**, but a cruel **master!**”

* * * * *

Anger is one letter less than **danger!**

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 U.S. Highway 431
Albertville, Alabama 35950

Second-Class Postage