

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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CHRIST IS ABLE!

There are some things that men are able to do. However, there are many things that men are not able to do. Christ is able to do some things that men cannot do. Let us notice some things that men are not able to do, but Christ is able to do.

1. **CHRIST IS ABLE TO SUBDUE ALL THINGS UNTO HIMSELF!** In Philippians 3:21 Paul declared that the Lord Jesus Christ **"... is able to subdue all things unto himself."** In Matthew 28: 18 Jesus declared: **"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."** We learn from Eph. 1:20-23 that Jesus has all things put under His feet and is head over all things to the church! His words are spirit and life! (cf. John 6:63)

Let each of us humbly submit to Him Who has all power and is now reigning over the kingdom and will continue to until all enemies are put under His feet and the last enemy, death, is destroyed! (See 1 Cor. 15:23-28).

2. **CHRIST IS ABLE TO SAVE ALL WHO COME UNTO GOD BY HIM!** The Hebrew writer said: **"Wherefore he is able to save**

them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (7:25). Jesus came **"... to seek and to save that which was lost."** (Luke 19:10). He is the Saviour! He can save from past sins and He is able to save eternally! (cf. Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 2:10).

3. **CHRIST IS ABLE TO SUCCOR (i.e., relieve, aid or help) THOSE WHO ARE TEMPTED!** The Hebrew writer said: **"For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted."** (2:18). Jesus is a merciful and faithful high priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities because He was in all points tempted like we are, but He did not sin! (See Heb. 4:16).

In writing to saints Paul declared: **"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are**

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Editorial ...

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON "I CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL ANYWHERE"

It has been my observation that most brethren whom I have heard make the statement, "**I can preach the gospel anywhere**" have done so in an effort to justify their having fellowship with a group of unfaithful brethren in some particular place or places.

As shown in a previous article the gospel should be preached in all the world to every creature! (cf. Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-30; Lk. 24:47). It is absolutely essential that men hear, believe and obey the gospel in order to be saved! (cf. John 6:44-45; Rom. 1:16; 10:14-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). All children of God need to hear the word of truth in order to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. (See Titus 2:11-12). We must hear God's Word in order to publicly worship God acceptably, (See John 4:21-24). We cannot know the truth about the church, its organization and work apart from God's revelation as revealed in the Scriptures. It should be obvious that we need to hear "**the whole counsel of God.**" (See Acts 20:26-27). Jesus declared; "**It is written, That man shall not live by**

bread alone, but by every word of God." (Luke 4:4).

I do not know of any Christian who objects to a preacher preaching "**the truth of the gospel**" to anyone under the proper circumstances. In fact, we cordially exhort and sincerely urge **every** preacher to do so! However, a person should not violate other Scriptural principles in order preach the gospel to others!

OBSERVATIONS

1. Most brethren that I have heard say, "**I can preach the gospel anywhere...**" will not investigate (by talking to people on both "sides" of the situation; one "side" is enough for them) to find out if those who are labeled as unfaithful by other brethren are really unfaithful. It seems they do not want to know the facts. Obviously they had rather not know the facts and then falsely label those who claim the group is unfaithful as violating the autonomy of that local church. Solomon said: "**He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord**" (Proverbs 17:15) and "**The first to plead his case seems just, until another comes and examines him.**" (Proverbs 18:17 - NASV).

Solomon also said: "**He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him and "...Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing whether it be good, or whether it be evil.**" (Proverbs 18:13 & Eccl. 12:13-14).

2. Most preachers who have the "I can preach the gospel anywhere" philosophy will not follow Paul's

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SOME OBSERVATIONS ON "I CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL ANYWHERE"

admonition to "... **reprove, rebuke, exhort...**" nor his example in preaching. (cf. 2 Tim. 4:2; Acts 9:20-22). Neither will they follow the example of Jesus in His letters to Ephesus, Pergamos and Thyatira. They will not say: "**Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee.**" etc. (cf. Rev. 2:4, 14, 20).

3. It is not a question of whether one can preach the gospel anywhere but it is a question of whether or not one can Scripturally have fellowship with a group of brethren who are in sin (such as "fellowshipping" one who have been Scripturally withdrawn from; using mechanical instrumental music in worship; donating money out of the church treasury to human institutions such as missionary and benevolent societies, etc.) (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:11; 1 John 1:5-7).

4. Most preachers who have the "I can preach the gospel anywhere" philosophy are saying by their practice, "I can fellowship unfaithful churches anywhere" as long as they do so under the guise of "preaching the gospel." Do you agree? Be completely honest in your answer.

5. If in one's preaching the gospel in a certain place he either upholds, endorses or encourages sinners (either brethren or aliens) to continue in sin, he is guilty of sin himself! (See 2 John 9-11; 1 Tim. 5:22; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:11). This may be done by his teaching and/or his actions. In either case he will give account to God for such! (See Romans 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Romans 2:6).

6. Most of the brethren who have the "I can preach the gospel anywhere" philosophy can understand that their position is false when the church

where they labor withdraws from an ungodly brother or sister and another congregation takes that person into their fellowship. Or when the church where they worship is split and a faction is formed and other so-called "faithful" preachers come in and preach for and have fellowship with the unfaithful group.

If a preacher will go into a group of unfaithful brethren (or a denominational church) and preach the message that is needed to bring about repentance (the people may or may not repent) as Paul did in Acts 9:20-22, he will faithfully discharge his responsibility and be pure from the blood of those involved. (cf. Ezekiel 3:4-11; 3:17-21; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Gal. 2:11-14; Acts 20: 26-27).

As one preaches in such situations he must not condone nor encourage by his actions either past or present ungodly attitudes or sinful actions of those to whom he preaches! (cf. 2 Cor. 6:14; 2 John 9-11; Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:22).

To fulfill our responsibilities as preachers of the gospel it takes the fear of God, genuine faith, wisdom and courage. Let each of us determine to fulfill our responsibilities as faithful servants of God!

HAVE YOU DECEIVED YOURSELF?

Paul said: "**Let no man deceive himself...**" (1 Cor. 3:18) It is certainly possible for a man to deceive himself. If a man hears the word of God but does not obey it, he is a deceiver of himself. James said: "**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**" (1:21) Have you deceived yourself?

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CHRIST IS ABLE

able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor. 10:13).

Yes, Jesus Christ is able to succor those who are tempted!

4. CHRIST IS ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH IS COMMITTED UNTO HIM! Paul confidently declared: “... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.” (2 Tim. 1:12) Men are fickle! They may betray us when we commit things to them. But not so with Jesus Christ. He is “faithful

and just”! He is concerned about us! He is merciful! (cf. Heb. 2:17; Rev. 1:5; Heb. 3:6). We can put complete trust in Jesus Christ because He is able to guard what we have entrusted to Him until that day!

Let us never doubt that Jesus Christ is able to: (1) subdue all things unto Himself; (2) save all who come to God by Him; (3) succor those who are tempted, and (4) keep that which is committed unto Him against that day! Yes, Christ is able to do these things!

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS
Reunion, Athens, AL **June 21-23, 1996.**
Buckhorn, Randolph, MS
July 28 - August 2, 1996.

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

It is better to build a fence on the cliff than to maintain an ambulance at its base in the valley.

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Truth is light! Be a truth seeker!

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Christians may get weary in their work, but should not become weary of their work.

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A man without patience is very poor.

* * * * *

Never invite trouble - it always accepts.

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