

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'S GOSPEL IS ADEQUATE FOR THE NEEDS OF ALL --- EVEN FOR THE MANY PEOPLE

In Mk. 12:37b we read: **"And the common people heard him gladly."** The many who listened to Jesus were the "common people".

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST IS:

1. **FREE** – the poor can obtain it! Jesus said: **"...and the poor have the gospel preached to them."** (Mt. 11:5b); Also see Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15-16, etc.

2. **PLAIN** – the uneducated can understand it! In Eph. 3:1-6 Paul said: **"...Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge..."** Also see 2 Tim. 2:7; Prov. 28:11; 15:19; Psa. 119:130, 104; Eph. 5:17; 2 Cor. 3:12, etc.

3. **EQUALIZING** – the humble are raised by it and the proud are humbled by it! See 1 Pet. 5:6; James 4:10; Mt. 23:12; 18:4, etc.

4. **THE POWER OF GOD TO SAVE SINNERS!** Paul said: **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God un-to salvation to every one that believeth..."** (Rom. 1:16) Also see 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 10:34-35, etc.

5. **ENCOURAGING** – THE DEPRESSED OR DISCOURAGED ARE ENCOURAGED BY IT! Heb. 13:5-6 says: **"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."** Also see 2 Cor. 1:8-11; Rom. 8:31-39; Phil. 4:13, etc.

6. **COMFORTING** – IT CONSOLES THE SORROWFUL! 2 Cor. 1:3-4- **"...the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."** 1 Thess. 4:13-18 says: **"...Wherefore comfort one another with these words."**

6. **COMPENSATING** – IT REWARDS ALL WHO BELIEVE & OBEY IT FOR THEIR WORKS OF FAITH & LABOURS OF LOVE! See Mark 10:28-30; Mt. 6:33; Heb. 6:10; 1 Tim. 4:8; 1 John 2:25; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:7; 2:10; 22:14; 1 Pet. 1:4, etc.

Are you truly following the true gospel of Christ? (CRS)

HE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

THE DANGER OF STRIFE AND CONTENTION IN THE CHURCH (NO. 1)

The words "**strife**" and "**contention**" are words which express enmity and ill-feelings as used in this study. They suggest hostile wrangling, the feeling which seeks to irritate, angry contention, a disposition to be quarrelsome and contentious.

There is a note of alarm in our subject. The word "**danger**" suggests that our faculties should be alerted and that we should be extremely careful and very cautious.

Strife and contention are dangerous anywhere they are found, whether in the world, nation, state, county, city, community, school, home, or in the church.

Much strife and contention exists in the brotherhood. Most

congregations are afflicted with them to some degree.

Although strife and contention as used in our subject are sinful, there is another kind of striving and contending that is right in which we must engage.

---Jesus said: "**Strive to enter in at the strait gate.**" (Luke 13:24)

---Phil. 1:27- "**...striving together for the faith of the gospel.**"

---Col. 1:29- "**...striving according to his working...**"

---2 Tim. 2:5- "**...yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.**"

Nehemiah Contended:

---Neh. 13:11- "**Then contended I with the rulers and said, Why is the house of God forsaken?...**"

---Neh. 13:17- "**Then contended I with the nobles of Judah and said unto them, What evil thing is this that ye do, and profane the sabbath day?**"

We "**should earnestly contend for the faith ...**" (Jude 3).

If you will carefully consider the following subjects and the references by them, you will be able to clearly see that there are two kinds of each thing referred to by the same word.

---Judging (Mt. 7:1). It says: "**Judge not, that ye be not judged**" and John 7:24 which says: "**Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**"

NOTE: There is one kind of judging that is condemned and another kind that is commanded.

---Works (Eph. 2:9). It says: "**Not of works, lest any man should boast**" and James 2:24 that says, "**Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**" NOTE: There is

one kind of works (boastful, devised by man) by which a man cannot be saved (or justified) and another kind of works (of faith, doing God's will) by which a man is justified (or saved).

Coveting (1 Cor. 6:10). It says: "...**Nor thieves, nor covetous ...shall inherit the kingdom of God**" and 1 Cor. 12:31 which says: "**But covet earnestly the best gifts...**" NOTE: There is one kind of coveting (desiring evilly, greedy of gain, etc.) that is condemned and there is another kind of coveting (desiring good and good things) that God approves.

Disputings (Phil. 2:14). It says: "**Do all things without murmurings and disputings**" and Acts 17:17 and 19:8-10 which says: "**Therefore disputed he (Paul – ed) in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him... And he went into the synagogue and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus. And this continued for the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.**"

NOTE: It is wrong to dispute or contend, or strive or fight about words or trivial matters, foolish questions, genealogies, etc. or to dispute with an improper motive. However it is good and proper and in keeping with God's word if we "**contend**

for the faith", if we "**dispute**" with those in error, "**striving...for the faith of the gospel**".

We should argue, discuss or reason with the proper disposition and motives, but we should never merely "fuss and wrangle" with the wrong disposition and the wrong motives.

We should strive for or contend for the faith, but we should not cause strife, contention or division in the church or among God's people generally, by teaching error or manifesting the wrong attitude.

SOME CAUSES OF STRIFES AND CONTENTIONS

1. Contentions About Personalities.

A. Read 1 Cor. 1:10-15 and 3:3-9 and you will see that some at Corinth were saying they were of Paul, others were saying they were of Apollos and others were saying they were of Cephas, and others were saying they were of Christ. Paul argued that since he had not been crucified for them and they had not been baptized in his name that they had no right to say, "I am of Paul", etc.

Paul condemned the division among them and said that they were carnal and walked as men.

B. The same may be true today in many places. Parties or cliques may form around personalities. If they do, they are sinful!

2. Strife About Material Possessions.

A. Read Gen. 13:5-12 with special emphasis on v. 8 which says: "**And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.**"

B. The same is often true now. There is strife over possessions of all kinds. Strife & contention often arise over "inheritances".

---Luke 12:13-15- "And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man who made me a judge or a divider over you?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

3. A Desire for Preeminence or a High Position.

A. Mt. 18:1- "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom?"

---Mk. 9:33-34- "...and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way

they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest."

---Lk. 22:24- "And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest."

B. Mk. 10:35-45- James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and requested that they be granted to sit, one on the right hand and one on the left, in his kingdom (in his glory).

---Mt. 20:20-28- Their mother came to Jesus making the same request.

C. Diotrephes. 3 John 8-9- "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not..."

D. Jesus used a child (Mt. 18:2-6) and a basin of water (Jno. 13) to teach humility & against strife. (To be continued) (CRS)

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SENTENCE SERMONS

Charity (love) may begin at home – but it must not stay at home!

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Gossip is sharing private information with those who are not a part of the problem or the solution.

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The "strait gate" and " narrow way" never need "restructuring" to allow more to travel them.

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We should never try to "legalize" anything (such as gambling, drinking, etc.) that is morally wrong.

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Are you lost? If so, you need GPS – *God's Plan of Salvation!* See the New Testament of Christ!

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