

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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LIFE'S GREAT QUESTION

The most important question asked by man is to inquire the way to heaven. The record tells us that when the jailor came into the presence of Paul and Silas he fell down and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:31). This question, when sincerely asked, deserves a correct answer. What answer did Paul and Silas give to this trembling and anxious jailor? We might better understand the full import of what he did say if we will think carefully, first of all, about some things he did not say.

1. PAUL DID NOT SUGGEST THAT A CHANGE OF ENVIRONMENT WAS A MEANS OF SALVATION. Environment has much to do with the right kind of life. The story of Abraham and Lot helps us to better realize this. Lot selected an environment in which to rear his family that brought him to shame. Lot prospered financially but lost his wife and the virtue of his daughters. However, a good environment is not a substitute for the blood of Christ.

2. PAUL DID NOT DIRECT THE JAILOR TO FOLLOW HIS CONSCIENCE. There are some things that are wrong even if one's conscience approves. When preachers, through sermons, tell you to "let your conscience be your guide," they are not preaching like Paul.

3. PAUL DID NOT TELL THE JAILOR TO "GET RELIGION AND JOIN SOME CHURCH." Religion is a practice (James 1:27), and not some gift or virtue that is bestowed on one from above.

4. PAUL DID NOT DIRECT THE JAILOR TO "STAND OR KNEEL WHERE YOU ARE, RAISE YOUR HAND, AND BOW YOUR HEAD IN ORDER TO BE SAVED." Paul did not direct the jailor to come to the mourner's bench. Some brethren, today, are saying that the mourner's bench is not being used by denominationals. We would suggest that the observation of such brethren is poor. The mourner's bench has been moved from the front of the building. (Editor's note: In some instances.) It may be the bench or chair on which one is sitting. The SYSTEM of the denominationals is the same. The LOCATION of mourner's bench has been changed.

5. PAUL TOLD THE JAILOR, "BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS, AND THOU SHALT BE SAVED, THOU AND THY HOUSE." Since the jailor had never been taught the gospel the record says, "And they (Paul and Silas) spake the word of the Lord unto him." The Bible tells us in Romans 10:17 that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. It was therefore necessary for the jailor to hear the word of God in order that he might believe. When Paul had finished his sermon the jailor desired to be baptized.

Why was the jailor baptized the same hour of the night? (Acts 16:33). The answer is found in the marching orders of the kingdom of God, Christ said, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned." Paul and Silas were loyal to

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CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Ala.

Editorial . . .

TAKE NO THOUGHT

We are living in a materialistic age. It seems that the majority of people in this country are chiefly concerned about material things. Many will lie and cheat in order to gain materially. Materialism is emphasized in social and political, as well as in some religious circles. All of us need to realize that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15). A person may have an abundance of material possessions and yet "not be rich toward God." (Luke 12:21). When a person "layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God," he is foolish indeed!

We should always realize our weakness and should feel our dependence upon God. God is the source of life. He is the sustainer of life. As Christians, we should pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17).

In Matthew 6:25 Jesus says, "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" In the following verses in Matthew 6, Christ teaches that the heavenly Father feeds the fowls of the air, although they do not sow nor reap. He then asks, "Are ye not much better than they?" Surely, we are better and more important than the fowls of the air! God

is concerned and surely will provide and care for his children! We should never be overly concerned or burdened with anxiety about food and raiment. Our Saviour said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (food, water, raiment—CRS) shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33). Although these things are temporal, we have the blessed assurance of Jesus Christ that our needs (essentials of life) will be supplied IF we will seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. We are not promised all the things we may WANT, but we are promised the things that are really essential. This promise is a conditional one. We must "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Otherwise, we have no such promise. We should not labor to be rich, but having food and raiment we should be content. We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

Although we have the promise of the essentials of life by living righteously, our primary purpose in living righteously should be that we may enjoy spiritual blessings in this life and be saved eternally. One soul is worth more than the whole world. (Matthew 16:26). In the world to come, we can receive "eternal life" IF we have enough faith in God to do what his grace teaches. "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death." (Proverbs 11:4).

Let us therefore "take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" We have more important things with which we should be primarily concerned. (CRS)

A WISE MAN SAID:

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom." (Proverbs 11:2).

Must I Attend All The Services Of The Church?

The Scriptures do not say specifically to attend every service of the church, but its teaching implies that we must. You are asked these questions:

1. Aren't you forsaking the assembling of yourselves together? To whom does the "some" refer in the Scriptures when it says "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is?" (Heb. 10:25).

2. Are you holding fast the profession of your faith? Aren't those who attend all the services holding more fast to the profession of their faith? (Heb. 10:23).

3. Where is the steadfastness in the apostles' doctrine? The dictionary defines "steadfast" as firmly fixed; constant; unswerving; unchanging. Those who are "steadfast" are faithful. Doesn't the world and even the members look upon those who attend all the services as the ones who are "steadfast" or "faithful?" (Acts 2:42).

4. By one service attendance you can add knowledge to your virtue, but can you not add much more by attending all the services? Why wouldn't the larger amount of knowledge be desirable? (2 Pet. 1:5). Please notice that this Scripture says "giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge." Wherein is the diligent adding of knowledge by one service attendance when more are provided for this purpose?

5. If you would say that it is all that is necessary, is a reward promised for doing only what is necessary? Aren't the righteous going to be only scarcely saved after they have done all they possibly can? (1 Pet. 4:18). Isn't the Lord to be loved with all your heart and soul and mind and strength? (Lk. 10:27). Is this command fulfilled with one service attendance? Are you giving diligence to make your calling and election sure? (2 Pet. 1:10). Isn't salvation the gift of

DO WE GET OR GIVE?

A great deal has been said in recent years about going to church to get what your soul needs, but not nearly as much has been said about going to church to give what God deserves.

Worship is more than just getting something from God. Our emphasis on going to church to have our souls refreshed has tended to overshadow the fact that worship is not basically a receiving process. It is a matter of giving. Worship is the giving of our praise and adoration to almighty God. It is the recognition of His WORTH-SHIP, or worthiness. "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Rev. 5:12). Public worship is what happens when we gather together to unite in expressing our love and faith toward such a majestic and merciful Lord. — A. Lee Baltzer. CHRISTIAN STANDARD.

Schedule of Services

LORD'S DAY:

BIBLE STUDY 10:00 A.M.

WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

WORSHIP 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

BIBLE STUDY 7:00 P.M.

DAILY: RADIO PROGRAM

Monday Thru Friday 11:15 A.M.

Over WBSA 1300 on the Dial

Please Listen To The Broadcast and Attend Services!

(Con't from column 1 of this page)

God after we have done all within our power to be saved? (Acts 15:11).

6. Isn't Christ in the midst of even two or three that are gathered in His name? (Matt. 18:20). If you love the Lord, why do you not want to be where He is? I ask "Must I attend all the services of the church?"

—Selected via the GOSPEL DIGEST

HOW WOULD WE FEEL?

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to him?

If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do? And if the excuses were no more justifiable than ours?

If God's promises were no more certain than ours?

If God withheld His blessings from us as we withhold our offerings from Him?

If God loved Himself as much as we love ourselves and gave as little thought to us as we give to Him?

Think on these things — again and again.

- - Selected via "Gospel Digest"

—NOTICE—

Please notify us in advance of your change of address. It will save us 10c and you will not miss an issue.

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LIFE'S GREAT QUESTION

Jesus Christ; they, therefore, instructed the jailor concerning the wish of the Master.

How, then, was the jailor saved? The answer is simple. He heard the gospel preached by Paul and Silas. He believed the gospel and was baptized immediately. Jesus had said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). How, then, do we know the jailor was saved? We know he was saved because Jesus had promised salvation to all who believe and are baptized.

The answer to life's great question is the answer that points out the way of salvation.

—By G. K. Wallace in GOSPEL ADVOCATE.

THE DEBATE

The Cannon-Sutton Debate on "The Godhead" and "Instrumental Music" is scheduled to be conducted in Pascagoula, Miss., April 27-30, 1965. It will be conducted in the Union Hall at 514 Market Street.

Sentence Sermons

When children begin to sow "wild oats", it is time for the parents to start the threshing machine.

If you cause a man to think he is right when he is wrong, you are a hypocrite.

Anger is a wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.

You will never have a friend here on earth, if you must have one without a fault.

Many people have too much to live on, and too little to live for.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1003 Baltimore Ave.
Albertville, Ala. 35950

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