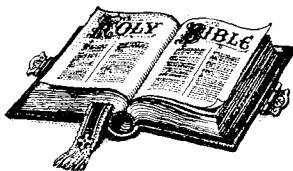


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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God's Word—A Sufficient Revelation!

During His personal ministry on earth, Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would come after He went back to heaven and would **"teach"** them **"all things"** and bring **"all things"** to their remembrance that he (Jesus) had said unto them. (See John 14:26). He further told them that the Spirit would **"guide"** them **"into all truth"** and **"show"** them **"things to come."** (See John 16:13).

After Christ ascended to heaven, the apostles (on the day of Pentecost) were **"filled with the Holy Spirit"** and spake **"as the Spirit gave them utterance."** (See Acts 2:1-47). As a result of being **inspired** by the Holy Spirit the apostles **"preached the gospel"** which was **"sent down from heaven."** (See 1 Peter 1:12).

Later Peter testified that **"we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to Him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with Him in the holy mount."** (2 Peter 1:16-18). Peter also affirmed that **"according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness."** (2 Peter. 1:3).

Paul affirmed that **"God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit"** and that he and other

inspired men spake those things, "not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (See 1 Cor. 2:9-13).

Inspired men in the first century spake and wrote the things that were revealed to them so people who lived after their decease would have access to God's truth, as well as those who lived during their life time on earth.

God's revelation as contained in the Scripture is adequate for all of our spiritual needs. It is a complete standard of authority in all religious matters. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25 & 2:12). We do not need nor should we accept any so-called "later day revelations." The curse of God will be upon any one who preaches **"another gospel."** (See Gal. 1:6-9).

We must not go beyond the Scriptures. We must learn **"not to think of men above that which is written."** (See 1 Cor. 4:6). We must **"abide in the doctrine of Christ"** and must always **"speak as the oracles of God."** (See 2 John 9 & 1 Pet. 4:11).

The **only** place you can learn **God's plan of salvation is from God's Book.** (See Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:36-41 & Gal. 3:26-27).

The **only** place you can learn **God's way of worship is from God's Book.** (See John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2 & Eph. 5:19).

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial — — —

HUSBANDS: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

(No. 1)

The only marriage "manual" upon which we may (and must) rely to learn the responsibilities of husbands is the Bible. In it we are completely furnished unto all good works. (See 2 Tim. 3:16-17 & 2 Peter 1:3).

In 1 Peter 3:7 we read: "**Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge. . .**" Many marriages fail because husbands do not **dwell** with their wives **according to knowledge**. Husbands should know how God wants wives treated. Husbands should have an intelligent recognition of the responsibilities involved in the marriage relationship. Ignorance of these responsibilities does not release husbands from them because they have the responsibility of learning **how to dwell with their wives**.

SHOULD NOT BE BITTER

All Christians should "**let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour and evil speaking, be put away**" from them, "**with all malice.**" All Christians should be "**kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another. . .**" (See Eph. 4:31-32). In addition to this Paul says: "**Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.**" (Col. 3:19). Husbands should never become embittered at their wives. A husband may not appreciate some of her actions nor enjoy some of her remarks, but he is commanded, "**be not bitter**" against her. Bitterness, wrath and malice will eat the heart out of a marriage and cause it to deteriorate and

may completely destroy it.

SHOULD NOT PUT AWAY

Putting away wives is a common practice in our nation. More than one out of every three marriages end in divorce. This is a very sad commentary on the people of this country which claims to be "a Christian nation." The apostle Paul said: ". . . **and let not the husband put away his wife.**" (1 Cor. 7:11). Unless the husband considers marriage to be a permanent relationship, he may violate God's word by putting away his wife. Many children grow up without paternal guidance because God's will for the husband not to put away his wife is rejected. Many women live lonely lives because their husbands had no respect for God's law of marriage. Jesus taught that in marriage the male and female are no more two, but one flesh. He also said: ". . . **What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**" (See Matt. 19:6). Man has no right to put asunder that which God has joined together!

SHOULD LEAVE FATHER AND MOTHER

We read in Gen. 2:24: "**Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.**"

When the Pharisees came unto Jesus, tempting him, and saying unto him, "**Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**" He replied: "**Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?**" (See Matt. 19:3-5).

Many marriages fail because the husband is not willing to leave his father and mother as God commands. Under ordinary circumstances, **no house** is large enough for two brides. The husband should provide separate living quarters for his wife. The husband—wife bond should be closer than the child—parent bond. Although a man **leave** his parents when he marries, he is still obligated to "**honour**" them that it may be well with him and he may live long on the earth.

If a man is not willing to leave his parents and cleave unto his wife, he is not "ready" for marriage. Husbands who fulfill their duties as husbands are not bitter against their wives and they do not put them away, but they **cleave** to them.

(CRS)

(To Be Continued)

WE CANNOT BUT SPEAK

"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:20). New Testament Christians were characterized by great faith and enthusiasm for the gospel. Peter and John and thousands of other Christians could not keep quiet about their faith, the greatest gift ever offered to mankind. Not only could they not keep from speaking of the gospel, they could not be suppressed. In the face of persecution they went every where being **"scattered abroad"** preaching the word. (See Acts 8:1-4). Many Christians have felt as Jeremiah expressed his feelings when he tried not to speak of God, **"But His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay."** (Jer. 20:9).

Paul said: **"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me, yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."** (1 Cor. 9:16). Paul felt that it was a necessity that he speak of the gospel, in fact woe to him if he did not preach. This zeal which prevailed during the early days of the church brought the accusation, **"these that have turned the world upside down have come hither also."** (Acts 17:6). When Christians offered the knowledge by which all men might be saved they were often considered trouble makers by those content with the way things were.

Christians have the responsibility to **"preach the gospel to every creature."** (Mark 16:15). Paul told Timothy, **"the things thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."** (2 Tim. 2:2). In this way, by teaching others and teaching them to teach others and so on, the gospel can be preached to the whole world. This was God's plan as Luke recorded when he said, **"that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."** (Luke 24:47).

Not only must Christians teach because they are commanded to do so, but also because of a moral obligation, a debt. Paul said, **"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."** (Rom. 1:14-15). Paul felt that he owed it to the world to preach the faith by which he, Saul of Tarsus, was saved.

There are many people who have obeyed

the simple principles of the gospel as outlined in the Bible and who simply follow Bible teaching. Although they are Christians, quite often they seem to lack the zeal as portrayed by earlier Christians. This is because of various reasons. Among them are lack of faith, lack of appreciation of the gospel, lack of understanding, lack of love for the souls of mankind, lack of self control, lack of encouragement, lack of interest in the congregation and the world. Nevertheless there is that burning desire deep down in every child of God to share with others the discovery of the spiritual blessings in Christ.

Christians today must learn to overcome the obstacles that hinder the gospel and with enthusiasm and love speak the words of salvation to those who are lost that they might consider them. Otherwise the opportunity for them to be saved by the word may slip away.

If you, dear reader, are not a Christian of the simple New Testament type, why not give one of us the chance to share with you the truth we have found no where other than in the Bible, and give us the consideration that this is what we feel we **must** do for your sake and ours.

---Mike Creel, Route 5, Wills Road, Boaz, Alabama 35957

(Continued from page 4)

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

Fifthly, **we should always consider the Context of a passage.** Observe who is speaking; to whom he is speaking, or writing; the purpose in view, and under which dispensation the passage was spoken or written.

Sixthly, **we should study and consider all that has been revealed in the Bible on each subject.** We should never isolate one passage on a subject from other passages dealing with the same subject. For example, do not isolate Acts 16:31 from all other passages on salvation and do not interpret it to mean something that will contradict what is spoken in such passages as Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27, etc...

(CRS)

JESUS CHRIST SAID:

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent." (Revelation 3:19).

HOW TO UNDER— STAND THE BIBLE

In order to understand the Bible, we must approach a study of it with the right attitude. First, we must realize that **It is absolutely necessary to know God's will**, if we are to obey Him and be saved. Jesus told the Sadducees: "**Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures. . .**" (Matt. 22:29). He also said: "**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" (John 8:32). We must know the truth in order to have faith, (see Rom. 10:17), to give us a reason of our hope, (see 1 Pet. 3:15), to teach others, (see 2 Tim. 2:2), and to be saved eternally. (See Rom. 1:16 & James 1:21). We shall be judged by Christ's word at the last day. (See John 12:48; Rev. 20:12).

Secondly, we must realize that **the Bible was written by holy men of God**, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (See 1 Pet. 1:21 & 2 Tim. 3:16-17). Thus we must respect the Bible as a revelation from God. We dare not trifle with its contents by adding to, taking from or substituting for it. (See Re. 22:18-19; James 1:25; 2 John 9 & 1 Cor. 4:6). We must remember that it is God's Book! We can know God's will only as He has revealed it. (See 1 Cor. 2:1-16).

Thirdly, **we must have a love for the truth**, (See 2 Thes. 2:10-12), and **a receptive heart**. (See James 1:21). We must be willing to do God's will after we understand it. (See John 7:17 & Matt. 7:21).

Fourthly, **we must study**, that is, **give diligence**, NOT merely read. (See 2 Tim. 2:15 & Acts 17:11). Most people fail at this point.

(Continued on page 3)

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

Time with opportunities for **Albert Hill** and the "**elders**" of the West Hobbs Street Church in Athens to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE continues. However, neither **Albert Hill** nor the West Hobbs Street "**elders**" have taken advantage of these opportunities to do so. In fact, there has been **no** positive response at all that indicates that they have **any intention** of honoring their agreement. Remember, it has been more than two and a half years since they **promised** to re-schedule the debate within a short time.

It is still hard for me to believe that the members of the West Hobbs Street church will idly sit by and allow "their elders" to act in such a way. I still have some optimism.

(Continued from page 1)

GOD'S WORD—A SUFFICIENT REVELATION

The **only** place you can learn **God's way for you to live is from God's Book**. (Luke 9:23; Tit. 2:11-12; Rom. 12:1-21 Gal. 5:13-26 & Matt. 6:33).

Saints are exhorted to "**earnestly contend for the faith**" and to **speak and do "as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."** (See Jude 3 & Jas. 2:12).

We plead with you to accept God's Word as a sufficient revelation from God to man. It will endure forever.

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

You don't have to institute a lawsuit in order to collect the wages of sin.

Do not give from the top of your purse, but from the bottom of your heart.

A selfish "Christian" has no true love for others, nor God.

When there is no thirst for righteousness, the sermon is "dry."

Lying covers a multitude on sins-temporarily.

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