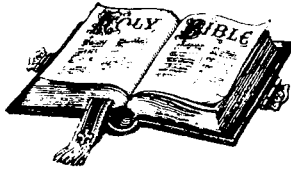


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## PURPOSES OF HIS COMING

The second coming of Christ is an interesting subject discussed and studied by all Bible students. And it has an important place in the study of every child of God. It has been said that one verse out of every twenty-five in the New Testament either deals with the subject directly or indirectly. The subject is of much concern to Christians, for embodied in it are his hopes, longings, and desires for a better world. Furthermore, he is taught in the Scriptures to hasten unto the coming of the Lord by earnestly desiring his appearing (2 Peter 3:12), and to wait and watch with patience for his coming. (Mark 13:34-35; Phil. 3:20).

When Jesus came into the world, it was for the purpose of instructing people in the way of righteousness, to warn them of the wrath of God, and to invite them to come unto him and receive rest from their sins. He came the first time to offer himself for the sins of the people that they might be saved. When he comes again, however, it will be for other reasons.

### HE WILL COME TO RAISE THE DEAD

Just why is he coming? Jesus said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and

they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29). In writing unto the Thessalonians the apostle Paul comforted their hearts by saying, "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." (1 Thess. 4:13-14). A close look at these passages will reveal that Jesus will come the second time to call all the dead from their graves. Not only will the righteous be raised, but the wicked will also come forth.

### HE WILL COME TO JUDGE THE WORLD

When Jesus comes again he will come for the purpose of judging the world. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 9:27). "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works." (Rev. 20:13). "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all his holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; and before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## *Editorial . . .*

### HEARING

Hearing is an important subject. Many will be lost because they refuse to hear. Let us consider some things the word of God teaches about hearing.

**WHAT SHOULD WE HEAR?** In Mark 4:24 Jesus said unto his disciples: **"Take heed what ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given."** We are to hear, but it is obvious that we are to be careful that we hear the right thing. We should hear the truth. It is able to make us free from sin. We should hear the gospel of Christ. It is God's power unto salvation. We should hear the words of Jesus Christ. We will be judged by his words in the day of judgment. The word of Christ, the truth, the gospel is revealed in the Scriptures. We should "search the Scriptures" to see if the things we hear are found in the Scriptures. If not, we should reject them.

**WHO SHOULD WE HEAR?** We should not hear false teachers. We learn this fact by a reading of the following passages.

1. MATTHEW 7:15-16: **"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"**

2. 2 PETER 2:1-3: **"But there were false**

prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

3. 1 JOHN 4:1: **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."**

4. 2 JOHN 9-11: **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deed."**

We should hear God as He speaks through Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament. A reading of the following passages will tell us this.

1. MATTHEW 17:5: **"... This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye him."**

2. ACTS 3:22-23: **"... Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."**

3. HEBREWS 1:1-2: **"God, ... Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds."**

4. HEBREWS 2:1-3: **"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?"**

#### HOW SHOULD WE HEAR?

1. We should not be dull of hearing. See Acts 28:25-27 and Hebrews 5:11.

2. We should be **"swift to hear."** See James 1:19.

3. We should desire to hear. Sergius Paulus was a prudent man, **"who called for**

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**Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God."**

4. We should take heed **how we hear.** Jesus said: **"Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."** (Luke 8:18).

5. We should determine to hear **gladly.** We learn from Mark 12:37 that **"... the common people heard him gladly."** On the day of Pentecost, **"... they that gladly received his word was baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."** (Acts 2:41).

6. We should not forget what we hear but we should be **"doers of the word."** James says: **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves . . . But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."** (James 1:25). We should so **"speak"** and **"do"** as they that shall be **"judged by the law of liberty."** (See James 2:12).

#### WHY SHOULD WE HEAR?

1. We should hear because we are **commanded** to hear. Remember the apostle Peter said: **"Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you."** (Acts 3:22).

2. We should hear because we will be **condemned** if we do not. Peter also said: **"And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, will be destroyed from among the people."** (Acts 3:23).

3. We must hear's God's Word in order to **receive faith.** Paul says: **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Also see Acts 4:4; Acts 18:8 and Hebrews 4:1-2.

4. We should hear because a  **blessing is promised** to those who hear. Revelation 1:3 says: **"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."**

5. We should hear in order to **be saved!** You cannot believe and obey God's will unless you understand it. But you cannot understand it unless you hear it. Only those who hear will be saved. See 1 Tim. 4:16.

Let each of us see the importance of hearing God's Word — and obeying it!

(CRS)

## PURPOSES OF HIS COMING

**separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."** (Matthew 25:31-33).

These quotations are clear and cannot be misunderstood. They teach: (1) That all men will die. (2) After death there will be a general resurrection in which all will come forth from their graves. (3) After death there will be a judgment based upon men's works done in this world. (4) And, finally that men will be classified as "sheep" and "goats" by what sort of works they have performed. Thus men need to heed the teaching of the Scriptures which says: **"For 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). NOW is the time for us to prepare for the judgment of God. Men may think they can escape the judgment, but it is coming to us as surely as death is coming.

#### TO REWARD THE RIGHTEOUS AND PUNISH THE WICKED

Again, Jesus is coming to reward the righteous and punish the wicked. **"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for your from the foundation of the world: . . . Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, unto everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: . . . And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."** (Matthew 25: 34, 41, and 46). This teaching is also clear and easily understood. Jesus shall pronounce **eternal** punishment upon those who "know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thess. 1:7-9). But for the righteous there will be **eternal** life. Of that eternal home we read, **"Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."** (Rev. 21:3-4).

—A. Ellmore Johnson in

GOSPEL TIDINGS

## WOMAN ELDER IN METHODIST CHURCH

An article in the Fulton, (Ky.) County News of September 14, 1970 tells of a woman "pastor" in the Memphis Conference who was ordained an elder. A "bishop" was to be present along with other dignitaries and they were to have a laying on of hands. The report said this would be an historic event since she was the first woman in that Conference to receive "full ordination as an elder." This raises some questions which need answers:

(1) Titus 1:5-9 gives the qualifications of an elder. In verse 6 it is said that an elder must be "the husband of one wife." Would someone explain to me how Mrs. Peck can ever be the "husband" of a wife?

(2) Where in the New Testament did any woman ever serve as an elder? How could she do so without violating 1 Tim. 2:12 which says, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." Since elders are to be "overseers" of a flock (Acts 20:28), how could a woman exercise such oversight without usurping authority over the men in the flock?

(3) Mrs. Peck is listed as "Rev." and identified as a "pastor." If she was already a "pastor" why did they need to ordain her an elder? In the New Testament an elder and a pastor were the same. This is further evidence of the abandonment of the Bible by this denomination.

—Connie Adams in  
MANSLICK RD SPEAKER

## UNITY

A division hurts every member of that church. Even those who are in the right will be provoked into thinking and doing things injurious to their Christian character. (Editor's note: In many cases, not necessarily in every case.) Few people, if any, can maintain a proper balance in the midst of misrepresentations and abuse. And a church fuss injures the influence of the church. The world reads your religion in what you do. They figure that if your religion will not save you from the devil now, it will not in the world to come. And your actions thus hinder the prayers of Jesus. He prayed that his followers might be one, that the world might believe. Here we have a fearful responsibility. God hates one who sows discord among brethren. The sower of discord among brethren is one of the devil's best servants, no matter what his pretensions might be. Am I helping the world to believe or am I serving the devil by sowing discord among the brethren? Make that question a personal matter.

—R.L. Whiteside in  
DOCTRINAL DISCOURSES

### THE SUTTON-HICKS DEBATE

The Sutton—Hicks debate was conducted at the time scheduled last month in Decatur, AL. More information will be given about it in the next issue of THE INSTRUC-TOR.

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## Sentence Sermons

Much trouble is caused today by workers who do not think, and by thinkers who do not work.

Some men prefer to "grind their ax" than to "bury the hatchet."

Be what you want other people to be — but beat them to it.

If a sermon pricks your conscience, it has some good points.

A man big enough to do the job is honest, The little man will lie and cheat to gain his way.

Do what you can, where you are, with what you have.

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