

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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CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS (No. 6)

As we continue to our study of CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS let us keep in mind that as **builders** we are responsible for **what** we build and **how** we build. To properly build, we must follow the principles set forth in the Scriptures. (cf. Heb. 8:5; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; James 1:25; 2:12). Not only should we build **good names, good solid families, good influences, lasting friendships and strong churches**, but we should also build.

6. HOPE! Hope suggests **desire with an expectation of fulfillment**. Many people are without hope of being saved eternally. They are more concerned about material things than they are spiritual things. A person may have a desire to go to heaven, but no expectation of going based on the word of God.

Our hope must be in God! Psalms 146:5 says: "**Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in the Lord his God.**" Jeremiah declared: "**Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.**" (17:7).

Without Jesus Christ we are without hope! Paul said that Jesus

Christ "**is our hope.**" (1 Tim. 1:1). When Christ is in us we have "**the hope of glory.**" (Col. 1:27). For Christ to be in us, we must be in Him. (Cf. Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:26-27).

Hope is very valuable! It serves as "**an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.**" (Heb. 6:18-19). We "**are called in one hope of our calling.**" (Eph. 4:4). We build hope by building a strong faith in God and Jesus Christ His Son. This faith comes by hearing the word of God. (See Rom 10:17) True hope cannot be built without a solid trust in God. By Christ "**we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed;...**" (Rom. 5:1-5).

We have hope of eternal life! Paul said: "**In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.**" (Titus 1:2). We have hope that when Jesus appears, "**we shall be like**

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Editorial ...

THE GOSPEL SOME MORE FACTS

In a previous article the following facts about the **gospel** were considered. The gospel is God's power to save! It must be preached, heard, believed, obeyed and will be the standard by which we will be judged in the last day! (cf. Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:15; Romans 10:14; 2 Thess. 1:7-9 & Romans 2:16).

In this study let us consider some more **facts** about the gospel.

I. THE GOSPEL CAN BE PERVERTED! Paul warned the brethren in Galatia of perverters of the gospel. He said: **"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."** (1:6-8).

To **pervert** is **turn away** from its true meaning. It is to **distort**. Judaizing teachers were making void the gospel by binding circumcision upon believers in Christ! The

gospel does not require physical circumcision of the flesh! Some were trying to be justified by the law that required circumcision. These efforts deceived some and caused them not to obey the truth. Paul condemned these false brethren who were perverters of the gospel. Referring to one who would pervert the gospel Paul said: **"Let him be accursed."** (See Gal. 1:9; 2:4-5; 3:1; 5:1-12 & 6:12-17).

Those who **distort** or **turn** people away from the true meaning of the gospel of Christ are guilty of perverting it! One can pervert the gospel (the truth, the law of liberty) by teaching that justification is by faith only! NOTE: There is no Scripture that says that justification is by faith only but there is a Scripture that says: **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."** (James 2:24). The person who teaches that a person who is once saved cannot fall from grace and be lost is a **perverter** of the gospel! (See 1 Cor. 10:12; Hebrews 3:12-13 & Gal. 5:1-4.) One can pervert the gospel by teaching that a person must receive Holy Spirit baptism in order to be saved! (See Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 22:16 & 1 Peter 3:21.) NOTE: These verses show that **water** baptism is essential to salvation, not Holy Spirit baptism! In Eph. 4:5 the apostle Paul teaches that there is **one** baptism!

The gospel can be perverted by denying either the death, burial or resurrection of Christ. (See 1 Cor. 15:1-4). One can pervert the gospel by denying the truth (on any subject) as revealed on any subject or by attributing to the gospel a false teaching. We must neither add to, take from nor substitute for the teachings revealed in the Scriptures. (See 1 Peter 4:11; 2 Tim.

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3:16-17; Rev. 22:18-19; 2 John 9; 1 Cor. 4:6; James 1:25; 2:12; etc.)

II. WE SHOULD WALK UPRIGHTLY ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL! In Gal. 2:11-14 we learn that the apostle Paul rebuked the apostle Peter because he and others **"walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel"** by acting hypocritically. Even Barnabas was **"carried away with their dissimulation"** (i.e., their hypocrisy). Paul exhorted the saints at Philippi saying: **"Only let your conversation (i.e., conduct - CRS) be as it becometh the gospel of Christ..."** (Phil. 1:27). Among other things the gospel teaches us how to conduct ourselves. Paul wrote to Timothy saying: **"These things write I unto thee,...thou thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."** (1 Tim. 3:14-15). If we did not have the word of God, the truth, the gospel, the law of liberty we would not know how to behave as Christians.

To walk uprightly according to the gospel we must walk **by faith** (2 Cor. 5:7); we must walk **in the light** (1 John 1:6-7); we must walk **in the Spirit** (Gal. 5:25); we must walk **circumspectly** (Eph. 5:15); we must walk **honestly, as in the day** (Rom. 13:13) and we must walk **worthy of the Lord and of the vocation** wherewith we are called (Col. 1:10; Eph. 4:1).

We are to **labor and serve God "in the gospel"**. (See Phil. 4:3; Rom. 1:9). Our service, work and labour of love must be according to the truth of the gospel! Titus 2:11-12 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, godly, in this present world." Apart from the teaching of the grace of God we would not know how to live. Yes, we must live uprightly according to the truth of the gospel!

III. THE GOSPEL IS FREE - EVEN THE POOR CAN HEAR IT! In Mt. 11:5 Jesus told some to go and show John that **"The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.."** NOTE: The poor have the right to hear, believe and obey the gospel as do others.

IV. THE GOSPEL IS PLAIN AND SIMPLE - EVEN THE UNEDUCATED CAN UNDERSTAND IT! In prior times the Word of God was simple. The Psalmist said: **The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple."** (19:7). He also declared: **"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple."** (119:130).

Peter and John were **"unlearned and ignorant men"** but they understood the gospel of Christ (See Acts 4:12). Paul exhorted: **"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."** (Eph. 5:17). We learn from Eph. 3:2-6 that Paul received the gospel by revelation and wrote it down that those who read **"may understand"** what Paul knew. (Also see 2 Tim. 2:7). It is not difficult to understand what God requires of us. (See Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27; Titus 2:11-12; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 16:13-14; Rev. 2:10; etc.) QUESTION: Do you

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know one thing that God requires of us that we cannot understand! I don't either. **OBSERVATION:** Although we may not perfectly understand everything the Bible says about everything, we must not give up those things that we do understand!

The gospel is also equalizing to those who receive it. The exalted are humbled and the abased are exalted! It is encouraging, comforting and compensating. The gospel is very valuable! It is indeed the pearl of great price!

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him; for we shall see him as he is." (1 John 3:2-3).

As Christians we are thankful for and rejoice in our hope! Paul said: **"Rejoicing in hope;..."** (Rom. 12:12). We are to **"hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of hope firm unto the end.** (Heb. 3:6).

As Christians we are to **"abound in hope"** and **"with patience"** wait for that which we do not see, but expect to receive! (See Rom. 15:13; 8:24-25).

(CRS)

CORRECTION: The first Scripture reference given on page 4, left column, first paragraph, of THE INSTRUCTOR, January, 1996 should be Psalm 119:30 instead of Psalm 118:30. I am sorry for any inconvenience caused to any one! (Editor).

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Footprints in the sands of time are not made by sitting down.

True integrity is shown by doing right when no one is looking.

The truth cannot be stretched without being ruined.

The grace of God will not lead you outside of the will of God.

Debts of gratitude are the most difficult to collect.

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