

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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SAVED BY FAITH - BUT BY WHAT KIND?

Belief and *faith* are synonymous nouns. *Faith* (or belief) is the result of believing. In other words, one must *believe* in order to have *faith* (or belief). *Believe* is a verb.

Although *salvation* and *justification* are not necessarily synonymous, from a practical standpoint, they are often used to refer to the condition of a man who is accepted with God. In other words, a person who is *saved* (has his sins forgiven) is a person who is *justified* in the sight of God. A person, who is *justified* in the sight of God, is a person who is *saved* (has his sins forgiven).

SINNERS ARE SAVED BY FAITH

1. John 3:16- **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

2. Mark 16:16- **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."**

3. 1 Cor. 1:21- **"...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."**

4. Acts 13:39- **"And by him (Jesus – ed) all that believe are justified from all thing, from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses."**

5. Acts 16:31- **"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."**

6. Rom. 5:1- **"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace..."**

7. Eph. 2:8- **"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."**

WHAT KIND OF FAITH SAVES?

Are sinners saved (or justified) by faith only? *No!* James 2:24 says: **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."**

Are sinners saved (or justified) by faith without works? *No!* See James 2:24 again.

NOTE:

1. Faith without works is dead! See James 2:17, 20, and 26.

2. Faith without obedience to the gospel (which includes repentance, confession & baptism) is dead! It will *not* save! (See Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:9-10).

3. Without question, sinners are saved by faith! We learn from Mt. 7:21 that one must **"do the will of the Father"**.

The kind of faith that saves us is a *living, active, obedient faith!* It is a faith that *submits to* and *obeys God's will* as revealed in the Scriptures.

(CRS)

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Editorial...

TROUBLE IN ISRAEL

(1 Kings 18:17-18)

(Concluded)

IV. IN THE 1900'S AND UP TO (AND INCLUDING THE PRESENT DAY) THERE WAS TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH.

Instrumental Music

Although there is no authority in the New Testament for the use of mechanical instruments of music in worship, a number of churches introduced instrumental music in their public worship. There is authority to sing, but there is none whatsoever to play. (See Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; Heb. 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Jno. 9, etc.)

There are some churches today that use instruments of music in their assemblies although it causes trouble among brethren.

Who causes trouble when instrumental music is brought into the worship of the church? Those who acts only when authorized to do so? Or is it those who bring

in the instruments of music without authority from Christ to do so? It is rather obvious who the troublers in "spiritual Israel" are.

Missionary Societies

Missionary societies (although they may be called something else) that are formed for the purpose of preaching the gospel to which churches contribute funds are not authorized in the New Testament. The church is "the pillar and ground of the truth." See 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Thess. 1:8; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 John 9.

Who causes the trouble that arises over such human organizations? Those who promote and defend them or those who oppose them?

Since "missionary societies" are not authorized to do the work of the church, those who defend and promote them are the "troublers" in the church.

Sponsoring Church Arrangements

When a local church acts as a "sponsoring church" of some activity in the general field of evangelism, edification, or benevolence, and calls on other churches to makes contributions of money to them to enable them to do a work to which all the churches are equally related, it does so without any Scriptural authority.

Churches may cooperate by giving "wages" to a preacher to preach the gospel as was the case in 2 Cor. 11:8. A church may have fellowship with a preacher by sending directly to him as in Phil. 4:14-15. There is no authority for a church to send funds to a "sponsoring church" to enable it to "sponsor" a preacher in a local church of in a foreign field, etc. This principle was involved in

the church (5th and Highland) in Abilene, TX that sponsored the "Herald of Truth" for many years.

Who caused the trouble that arose in many churches over the "sponsoring church" arrangement? Was the trouble cause be those who opposed it or by those who promoted it?

Those who promoted the "sponsoring church" arrangement caused the trouble in many churches because they were acting without divine authorization. (See Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Jno. 9)

Benevolent Societies

Churches are authorized to "relieve" needy saints. (See Acts 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:16, etc.). They have the responsibility to provide the funds, the oversight and the necessities for that relief. There is no authority for churches to build and maintain (or make contributions to) human organizations (benevolent societies) that in turn provide the oversight and necessities for the relief work to be done. (See Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 John 9)

The benevolent society called "Childhaven" is not really a home for orphans. It is a human organization that provides the oversight and necessities for the relief of some needy ones.

There are various human organizations that are called "Homes for the Aged" to which churches send contributions to enable them to care for some needy ones. They are not homes. They are merely benevolent societies that in turn provide the oversight and necessities so that the needy aged ones can be cared for. They want churches to provide the funds for their work.

There has been much strife, turmoil and many problems in many churches for the last 50-60 years or so.

Who caused the trouble in the churches over so-called "orphan homes" through the years?

When churches divided and fellowship was disrupted and cut off, who were the ones responsible for this? Those who insisted on doing only that which is authorized in the NT or those who designed, built, defended, and promoted benevolent societies?

Those who insisted that churches either "go along with" what they said was a mere incidental or we would be marked unworthy of fellowship. They would bind where even they said God had not bound. They caused the trouble because that preached and practiced that for which they had no Scriptural authority!

Church Sponsored Recreation, Entertainment, etc

Many churches have been "caught up" in the "recreational and entertainment craze" that the denominational churches began a number of years ago in an effort to attract more people and to please men.

Some churches of Christ engage in everything from basketball, basketball leagues, other sports activities, concerts, puppet shows to "Fall Fashion Frolics" and carnivals, etc. To assist them in carrying out these activities, some churches have built what they called "multi-purpose buildings".

The only "justification" for churches providing the facilities for such things and promoting them is based purely on the wis-

dom of men. No one can give "Book, chapter and verse" from the Scriptures that justify such! Unless "Book, chapter and verse" can be given, there is no true justification for such. They are without authorization from God!

A close study of 2 Timothy 3:16-17 will show that the Scriptures are profitable "for instruction in righteousness" that we may be completely "furnished unto all good works." Since we are not instructed (either by statement, command, necessary implication, or by an approved example) in the Scriptures that churches may provide entertainment and recreational activities, etc., it is not in the realm of God's righteousness. Thus these are not good works!

Since God has not authorized such activities to be provided by the churches, those who

do so are acting without authority from Christ. They are violating Col. 3:17.

We cannot get churches involved in recreational activities and entertainment projects if we abide "**in the doctrine of Christ**" since it is not taught "**in the doctrine of Christ.**" Those who "**abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God**", but those who "**abideth in the doctrine of Christ...hath both the Father and the Son**" according to 2 John 9.

Troublers in the Churches

Those who *introduce* into the churches such things as instrumental music in worship, missionary societies, sponsoring church arrangements, benevolent societies, church sponsored recreation & entertainment, etc., are the troublers in the churches!

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* * * * *

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* * * * *

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* * * * *

A Christian will arrive at the desired destination only if he stays on the right track.

* * * * *

The weak mind magnifies trifling things, but cannot receive great things!

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