

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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PLANNING A SUMMER WARDROBE?

AS CHRISTIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS PLAN their summer wardrobe, they should keep in mind a very important principle emphasized in the New Testament. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety . . . But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Goodspeed gives this translation of the same passage, "Women for their part are to dress modestly and sensibly in proper clothes . . . as is appropriate for women who profess to be religious, with good actions." (1 Tim. 2:9).

THE TENDENCY FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS has been to the destruction of modesty by the wearing of abbreviated and scanty dress. This certainly is one of those instances where the Christian must not be "fashioned according to this world." (Rom. 12:2).

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF SOUND REASONS why Christian women and girls should demonstrate this attitude. Modesty is a most valuable asset in the protection of virtue. With the destruction of modesty, virtue is endangered. All thinking people are alarmed at the modern attitude toward morality. This attitude is undoubtedly created in part by the weakening of modesty on the part of so many.

CHRISTIANS CANNOT AFFORD to contribute to this modern trend toward immorality. Scanty attire not only means the destruction of modesty on the part of the one so dressed, but also is a means of temptation to others. The apostle Paul listed among the works of the flesh in Galatians 5, "lascivious-

ness." The term "lascivious" is defined as "wanton; lewd, lustful; tending to produce lewd emotions." There is lascivious conversation, lascivious conduct, and there is lascivious dress. Immodest dress is not compatible with Christian character and Christian living. As Christians plan their wardrobe for the summer months, they should be careful to plan that which is modest.

—Selected from "Gospel Digest"

THEY WILL NOT MIX

Oil and water will not mix, and neither will spirituality and worldliness. When church members try to mix worldliness and Christianity, they can never succeed, for either Christianity will conquer worldliness or the love of this world will kill Christianity. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." (1 John 2:15).

The tragic evidence of worldliness can be seen easily in the lives of those Christians who have been drawn away by their lusts. They want to be regarded favorably both in the church and in the world. They will make every effort to so compromise that the gospel will never offered a single soul. While they are so careful not to offend others they themselves are very easily offended by the preaching of the truth in love. How tragic that in spite of everything God has bestowed for our good, some will make shipwreck of their faith on the rock of worldliness.

—Selected via
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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Man cannot enjoy genuine happiness and accomplish what ought to be accomplished unless he realizes why he is living. Philosophy and wisdom of men cannot adequately answer the question: "What is the purpose of life?" We must appeal to divine revelation as revealed in the Scripture in order to know why we are on earth. Are we here by chance? Or, are we here by design?

When we consider the Holy Scriptures we learn that we have been placed on earth by an all-wise, all-powerful Creator. We are here by design and not by chance.

WHAT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Worldly wisdom is prized very highly by many. It can serve some useful purposes, but obviously we have not been placed upon earth to attain worldly wisdom. The apostle Paul said, "Where is the wise? where is the Scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." (1 Cor. 1:20-21). In describing some men Paul said, "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools." (Rom. 1:22). God's ways and thoughts are as much higher than our ways and thoughts as the heavens are higher than the earth. (See Isa. 55:8-9).

Earthly wealth is the chief aim of

many people. If they gain such they feel like they have succeeded in life. However, God does not place the same value upon wealth. Solomon was a rich man, but he knew the futility and vanity of riches. He said, "Labor not to be rich" in Prov. 23:4. Again in Prov. 11:28 he said, "He that trusteth in riches shall fail." All of us should know that riches will not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. Jesus Christ said: "Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life." (John 6:27). If we realize the value of the soul, and how important it is that we save the soul, we will not trust in uncertain riches, but in the Living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

The philosophy of men which says "eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you may die" is opposed to God's principles of truth and righteousness that give life. One is foolish indeed who layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God. We haven't been placed upon earth to fulfill every desire of the flesh by engaging in fleshly things and sinful pleasures. There must be self-denial. We must be willing to "live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." (See Luke 9:23; Tit. 2:11-12).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?

We are not living on earth by chance but by divine design. Solomon, a great wise man, said that he was going to see what man ought to do while upon earth. In other words, he sought to learn the purpose of life. After long experience and much observation he said: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." (Eccl. 12:13-14). It is essential that we do the will of the Father which is in heaven, if we would enter into the kingdom of heaven. (See Matt. 7:21). In doing this, we glorify God here upon earth and prepare for the judgment. This is truly our God-given purpose in

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THE GLORY OF OLD AGE

"Young ideas" is the modern expression for "progress". Nobody wants to be associated with things that are old. This is true of our dress, our speech, our houses and automobiles. There is nothing as shameful as being old-fashioned and out-of-date. This same trend of thinking is reflected in the treatment of persons. Although the working efficiency of a man of 40 is still on the increase, it is becoming difficult for a man past that age to readily obtain employment. In every aspect of personal relations, respect for age is rapidly diminishing. Small children frequently talk back to their parents; teenagers have little regard for the authority of any adult; young married couples scorn the "rusty old ideas" of their well-meaning parents.

We are not surprised to see these—but it is alarming not a little to see the same attitudes gaining acceptance among Christians. I have personally seen in a number of churches the development of what might be called a "young people's faction" which has as its aim the wresting of the leadership from the older men. Even where older, Scripturally-qualified men are available, churches are now appointing young men as elders. A class taught by an older man is too "stuffy" for young adults. Old preachers are being "laid on the shelf" while churches bid for the services of younger men of less experience. Dropping into disrepute are the "old" brethren, the pioneers of the restoration movement, the great preachers of past generations.

All of this is clearly anti-Scriptural, from the lack of family discipline to the disregarding of God's specifications for elders. Numerous Scriptures teach respect for aged persons for the sake of age alone. "Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and thou shalt fear thy God: I am Jehovah." (Lev. 19:32). Respect for parents is imperative. "And he that curseth his father or his mother, shall surely be put to death." (Exo. 21:17). Some notable Bible critics call this a "primitive attitude," and many of our younger people would agree, yet God says, "The beauty of old men is

the hoary head." (Prov. 20:29). Let the aging man or woman rejoice that our Father is not swept away with "young ideas." He still has special attention and care for those advancing in years.

The New Testament picture is no different. The aged widows are singled out for special honors. (1 Tim. 5:9). The bishops or overseers are to be chosen from among the elders (elderly men). Though an elder might be worthy of rebuke, young Timothy is warned to rather "exhort him as a father." (1 Tim. 5:1). Children are commanded to honor their parents.

The division and fall of the kingdom of Israel came as the direct result of passing by the counsel of the old men. (2 Chron. 10). The love of "young ideas" may likewise spell the spiritual ruin of many a congregation today. Let us who are young restore the Bible pattern, being not ashamed to honor those whom God has honored with the "crown of glory" of old age. (Prov. 16:31).

—Gordon R. Linscott in "The Word and Work".

ANNOUNCEMENTS—

A series of gospel meetings are scheduled to be conducted at the East Albertville church building June 21-27, 1965. Bro. Hollis Creel of Paragould, Arkansas will do the preaching! Be sure to attend if possible! Tell others!

Hear the gospel over WBSA, 1300 on the dial at 11:15 A.M. Monday thru Friday!

TO ALL ON OUR MAILING LIST: Please send us your ZIP CODE, if you haven't done so. The Postal Department is requiring us to use the ZIP CODE on ALL second-class matter. Please do this at once!

PLEASE NOTIFY US AT ONCE OF A CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS! YOU WILL NOT MISS AN ISSUE AND IT WILL SAVE US 10c!

The Sun Is Almost Down

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: neither give place to the devil." (Eph. 4:26-27).

Two good men on an occasion had a heated discussion, and, remembering the exhortation of Paul, "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath", just before sunset one of them went to the house of the other, and knocking on the door, his offended friend came and opened it and, seeing who it was, withdrew in astonishment and surprise; the other, at the same moment, cried out, "The sun is almost down." This unexpected statement softened the heart of his friend into affection, and he returned for answer, "Come in, brother, come in." What a happy method of conciliating a matter of redressing a grievance, of reconciling brethren!

—"Minister's Monthly"

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being given life here upon the earth.

An alien sinner is required to "obey the gospel" in order to become a child of God. As a child of God, we must seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." If you fail to prepare for eternity, you haven't fulfilled your God-given purpose on earth! (CRS)

How To Listen To A Sermon

Do not be a criticizing listener. The preacher makes mistakes as you do. If he were perfect, he would not be there.

Do not be a sermon "fitter" — trying to fit the sermon to someone else. Make a personal application if possible. Let your neighbor fit it to himself.

Listen with a mind prepared by an earnest desire for truth.

Listen with a humble mind. Let the searching of the gospel reveal the need in your heart.

Listen with an open mind. You may disagree with the sermon, but remember one of the functions of the true sermon is to disturb your complacency.

Please do NOT apologize for what the preacher said. He might like it better than you do! — Selected and adapted

—Selected and adapted

Sentence Sermons

Trying to be a Christian without getting far enough from the world to miss anything it offers, is like tuning in two stations at the same time on your radio — you get nothing from either program!

Those who bring happiness into the lives of others, cannot keep it from themselves.

You can see Jesus Christ better with your knees bent.

It should be easy to make an honest living — there is so little competition.

A weak mind is like a microscope which magnifies trifling things, but cannot receive great ones.

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