

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," Timothy 3:16

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NO NEED FOR A NEW GOSPEL

Personally, we cannot see how anyone could think of any change in the Lord's plan of religion as being right. Certainly the Lord does not think so, for when he set up the plan and gave the Bible to tell us about it, he warned us against adding to it and taking from it. (Rev. 22:18-19). This idea of a "modernization" of the Lord's religion, bringing it up-to-date, bespeaks either a rank ignorance of the word of God on the subject or an infidel attitude toward the Bible.

1. Man, the patient, has not changed through the centuries. His mental and physical make-up is the same as when Jesus came to earth.

2. The world about man, his environment, has not changed. He has the same temptations today which he had 1900 years ago. As in the days of Adam and Eve, of Christ and New Testament Christians, we still have the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the

vain glory of life." (I John 2:16).

3. The malady of man has not changed. He is still guilty of sin, and must reap what he sows. There are no new sins. Sin is still as prevalent as ever.

4. The result of sin, death, has not been mitigated. It still depraves, ruins homes and condemns souls.

5. Man's adversary, the devil, has not changed. He still goes about seeking whom he may devour. His success is still just as great, for all have sinned. (Romans 3:23).

6. The cure has not changed nor lost its power. The blood of Christ is the only thing that can wash us clean from sin and make us whole again.

7. Man must still obey the will of God.

—Reeder Oldham

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Editorial . . .

Why Do You Believe...?

The apostle Peter tells us to "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (1 Pet. 3:15). We should know WHAT we believe and WHY we believe it. Otherwise we have no true convictions. Faith is very important. By faith we are justified. (Rom. 5:1). We walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith can make us victorious over the world. (See 1 Jno. 5:4). Without faith it is impossible to please God and be saved. (See Heb. 11:6). From whence cometh faith? Rom. 10: 17 tells us "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." True faith is produced by hearing the Word of the living God. God's Word has been revealed to inspired men who in turn wrote it down that we might have access to it. In order for me to have saving faith I must hear God's Word. In fact, I have no right to believe anything in spiritual matters unless it is taught in God's Word. Man cannot direct his own steps. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO?

THE MAJORITY?

Do you believe what you do because the majority of people you know thinks that to be right? Back under the law, the children of Israel were told: "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil."

(See Exo. 23:2). The multitude may be wrong. They may believe and propagate error. They may be following Satan and sinning. In fact Jesus said: "Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus also said: "For many are called, but few are chosen." (Matt. 22:14). What is your standard? God's Word or the opinion of the majority of people? On what is your "faith" based? If you believe that "it doesn't matter what one believes as long as he is sincere", your "faith" is not based on God's truth. Hence your faith cannot be right and cannot save you. If you believe that "all good (moral) people will be saved", your "faith" is not produced by the Word of God and is not saving faith. If you believe that "one church is as good as another", your "faith" is not "true" faith because it did not come by hearing God's Word. If you believe you can drink intoxicants, dance, wear immodest dress, curse a little, lie some, cheat a bit, beat a debt, use tobacco, play cards, etc., and still be a true Christian and go to heaven just because most people think so, your "faith" is not based on God's Word and will not save you eternally. WHY do you believe what you do? Is it because of what God's Word says or what the multitude says? Examine yourself!

YOUR FEELINGS?

I wonder if you "believe" what you do because of your feelings"? Is a thing right just because you may "feel" like it is? Does "feeling good" PROVE that you are saved? Remember Jacob "mourned for his son (Joseph) many days" and "refused to be comforted" and said, "For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning" because he really felt like Joseph was dead. Yet about twenty or so years later he found his son Joseph alive in Egypt. His "belief" that Joseph was dead caused him to "feel" sorrowful. (See Gen. 37:23-35). Your feelings are the result of your belief. You cannot say

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WHY DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

"I know I am saved because I feel like it" and be telling the truth. Your faith must be based on what God's Word says and not on your "feelings". Solomon said: "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool." (Prov. 28:26). He also said: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12). You cannot trust your "feelings" to be a sufficient guide as to what is right. You must believe **WHAT** you do **BECAUSE** it is **WHAT GOD'S BOOK TEACHES!** Why do you believe what you do?

TRADITIONS OF MEN?

Some people believe what they do because they have been taught the traditions and commandments of men. When men teach "salvation by faith only", they believe that. When men teach "there is nothing in a name", they believe that. When men advocate that "one must pray through" or that "sprinkling is baptism", they accept that as being right. When men propagate the theory that "it doesn't matter how a person worships God", they swallow it "hook, line, and sinker." Yet our blessed Lord said that worship is **VAIN** when after the doctrines and commandments of men. (See Matt. 15: 8-9). He further said to some that they were "making the Word of God of none effect through **YOUR TRADITIONS**, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." (Mark 7:13). We learn from Titus 1:14 that the "commandments of men" will "turn from the truth." Which are you following? The Word of God or the traditions of men? Yes, it does make a difference! It is possible that you believe that it is alright to use mechanical instruments of music in worship to God because it is a tradition of men? I know that the use of such is **NOT** authorized in the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! Tell me seriously, **WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO?**

(CRS)

(To be continued)

Doctors And Preachers

There are many comparisons which might be made between doctors and preachers. The former apply medicine (or other means) to cure the sick body; the latter apply the Word of God to cure sick souls. Notice the difference thought, — although perhaps any one of many different prescriptions might be used to cure the sick body, only the God-given instructions can cure souls.

Of course, some doctors are quacks; and not a few preachers give our other than the Divine prescriptions. However, whereas most people do not have enough medical knowledge to check on the doctor and have to take him at his word, people ought **NOT** to take what the preacher says without checking it with God's book, (See Acts 17-11)

Both doctors and preachers visit the sick, but preachers are expected to visit the well also. Both go when they are called, but more often the preacher is expected to go without being called. Both go when there is a specific need, but the preacher is expected to go to every place and see if there is a need. Both are very busy men and have not long to stay, but preachers are "not concerned" if they do not sit down and listen patiently to a long discourse on woes. Doctors can call with propriety at any hour of the day or night, but preachers are welcome only for a couple of hours in the afternoon (when people are usually out). Doctors are highly paid to save the body, but preachers not half so well in their efforts toward saving souls. Someone must pay the doctor even if death ensues, but only those who are saved are interested in paying the preacher.

Calling on the sick is the doctor's major duty, but calling on the well and sick is the preacher's minor duty. While doctors do have to study, they do not have to prepare and deliver many addresses; but preachers as a rule prepare and deliver three or four lessons per week. Although it would be

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DOCTORS AND LAWYERS

good for doctors (and all Christians) to spend an hour a day in prayer and Bible study (though most do not), the gospel preacher must spend many hours in quietness with God and his Word each day in order to do his work well. (See 1 Tim. 4:13-16).

—Robert Sorrell in Ashville, N.C.

BULLETIN

Six Reasons Why You Should Be A Christian

1. You should be a Christian because God expects you to glorify Him as such. "But if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this name." (1 Pet. 4: 16, R. V.).

2. You should be a Christian because New Testament disciples were called Christians. "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." (Acts 11: 26).

3. You should be a Christian because that is all the apostles persuaded men to be, just Christians. "And Agrippa

said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." (Acts 26:28).

4. You should be a Christian because there is no Bible authority for being anything else, and to go beyond Bible authority is sin. "Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ hath not God." (2 John 9a. R. V.).

You should be a Christian and only a Christian, because you cannot have God any other way. "He that abideth in the teaching of Christ the same hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 9b).

6. You should be a Christian because as such God rules all things to work out for your good. He provides and protects. "And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28).

—Article in JUST A MOMENT

STUDY THE PRECIOUS WORD
OF GOD AS REVEALED IN THE
BIBLE WITH US EACH DAY
MON.-FRI., OVER WBSA AT 11:15
A.M., 1300 ON THE DIAL.

Sentence Sermons

Hard work is the yeast that raises the dough.

Starving the soul to feed the body makes "poor" Christians.

If you have tried to do something and failed, you are far better off than if you had tried to do nothing and succeeded.

Those who measure up and look up are hard to keep down.

Never kick up more dust than you can settle.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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