

# 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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## WILL YOU BE ALLOWED TO READ THIS?

At first reading of the above title you may feel that it is an effort on the part of someone to be humorous. After all, don't we live in a free country and are we not free to read whatever is published? We agree that the constitution of this country guarantees this freedom, but **we know that some people will not be allowed to read this paper regularly.** Below we list some of the reasons for this.

1. **INDIFFERENCE** — The indifference of some people toward any religious matter will not allow them to read anything from which they might learn what the will of God really is. We trust you would be willing to learn of God and His will and are not indifferent to truth.

2. **PRESSURE AND FEAR** — Some will not be allowed to read this paper because their preacher or other religious leaders will forbid it, or at least discourage them from doing so. Some will submit to this pressure which is designed to keep them ignorant of the truth while others will make their own decisions. Truth, **on any subject**, should not fear any open honest investigation of religious teachings and practices.

3. **PREJUDICE AND A CLOSED MIND** — Someone has said that preju-

dice is the lock on the door of a closed mind. Many will not read anything that may not agree completely with **their already made-up minds.** They have closed their minds to any further information or truth. All should be encouraged to get all of the facts before making their decisions in any matter, especially in matters relating to the salvation of the soul. We beg you to have an open mind to the truth.

We are willing to have any of our readers call any false teaching to our attention, **for our souls are at stake** if we teach error (Gal. 1:8-9). We will be happy to study with you on any Bible subject, (2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 3:15). "... Prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:2).

—Karl Diestelkamp  
via SOUTHWEST EXHORTER

I JOHN 1:8 says: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

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## EDITORIAL....

### IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH (NO. 16)

Editor Gray wrote at least eleven articles in the North Broad Bulletin in an effort to defend such projects as "The Herald of Truth." Instead of approaching the question from a positive stand point and simply showing from the **Scriptures** (if he could) **authority** for such an arrangement, he approached it negatively and desperately tried to answer arguments that he alleges some brethren make against his position. He is rather "adept" at presenting "arguments" of those who oppose his pet projects and then "answering" them. Obviously, he had much rather do that than to allow those who oppose his "views" to present their own arguments.

### IS THERE A PATTERN?

There are a number of insinuating statements made by the editor that causes me to think that he does NOT believe that there is a **pattern in church co-operation.**" If this is not his position, I will be glad to print a statement from him to that effect, if he will inform me. NOTE: 1. If there is NO **pattern** for churches to follow in co-operating, then there is no wrong way to co-operate. This would allow churches to co-operate through a "preaching society" (commonly called a missionary society) by the contributing of their funds. Is the editor ready to accept the logical consequence of his

position? 2. When we take all that God's Word teaches on the subject of "church co-operation", we have **God's pattern.** If not, then what would it take to be a pattern? 3. It is certainly sad to see a "gospel preacher" deny that whatever God's Word teaches us to do is a **pattern** for us to follow!

Editor Gray said: "The statement is frequently made, 'No church has a right to begin a work she is unable of herself to maintain.' This is a statement made by finite men that has no Scriptural nor common sense basis." (N.B. Bulletin, Vol. 3, No. 33).

### OBSERVATIONS

1. Editor Gray discredits the statement as being **unscriptural** and **foolish**, but he does NOT give **Scriptural authority** for a church to begin a work that she knows she is unable of herself to maintain.

2. Does the editor believe that a church **does** have the right to begin a work that she knows she is unable of herself to maintain? If he does, surely he knows a passage that he thinks authorizes such. Where is such a passage? Don't you think he is obligated to produce the passage if he knows one? If he does NOT believe that a church has the right to begin a work that she knows she is unable of herself to maintain, he is guilty of believing that which he says is unscriptural and foolish.

3. If the editor is right, E.R. Harper is guilty of teaching that which is unscriptural and foolish. Hear E. R. Harper: "**A congregation has no right to build anything larger than it is able to support. It has no right whatever to bind any other congregation to any program of work of its selection. Each congregation must retain its autonomy. Any effort that destroys the independence of the local congregation runs toward sectarianism, if not Romanism.**" (TULSA LECTURES, Pages 110-117 in 1938). For quite some time E. R. Harper was a regular speaker on "The Herald of Truth" program.

The editor stated that "In 2 Cor. 11:8 Paul speaks of literally robbing 'other churches' to do a service to the Corinthian church. Was the receiving church in-

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digent? No, not at all...Hence we see that it is permissible for congregations assisting a work (another congregation) to be 'robbed' on behalf of the work they are helping." (N.B. Bulletin, Not numbered or dated.)

### OBSERVATIONS

1. Please observe the fact that 2 Cor. 11:8 is NOT an example of one church contributing funds to another church to enable the receiving church to preach the gospel. Paul said: "**I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service.**"

2. Paul did NOT LITERALLY rob "other churches." Paul was NOT LITERALLY A ROBBER! Editor Gray IS LITERALLY WRONG!!

3. The Corinthian church did NOT receive ANYTHING from the "other churches." Paul took wages from "other churches" that he might preach the gospel to the Corinthian church!

4. I know of NO ONE that objects to a number of churches paying wages to a gospel preacher that he in turn may preach the gospel to another church. This is what 2 Cor. 11:8 shows.

5. 2 Cor. 11:8 is NOT an example of one church contributing funds to another church for ANY purpose.

6. The editor must be hard pressed indeed. Otherwise, surely he would not have used this passage in the manner he used it.

Editor Gray also contended that "whether a church sends support for a preacher to the treasury of a sister congregation or mails a check directly to the worker (preacher) is a matter of procedural choice ...." (N.B. Bulletin, Not numbered or dated.)

### OBSERVATIONS:

1. If we were to grant that the above statement is true, this would NOT necessarily PROVE that it is Scriptural for a church like the Highland church in Abilene, Texas to spend thousands of dollars annually to beg hundreds of thousands to enable them to put on "The Herald of Truth."

2. There would be a difference in a church receiving money to spend at its

own discretion and in a church serving merely as a messenger to deliver a check to a preacher from another church. I know of no Scripture that would authorize a church to contribute into the treasury of another church in order to support a preacher.

3. I would like to ask the editor if it is a matter of procedural choice as to whether a church sends support for a preacher to the treasury of a sister congregation, or to a preaching (or missionary) society, or mails a check directly to the preacher? **If there is NO PATTERN, there is NO wrong way to do it!**

If the North Broad Editor could have given Scriptural authority for the "sponsoring church" arrangement such as is involved in "The Herald of Truth," he no doubt would have done so some where in one of his articles.

We continue to plead with the North Broad church and editor Gray to change their course of actions and return to "**A Thus Saith The Lord.**"

(CRS)

## IT IS EASIER

It is easier to compromise the truth than to stand for it. It is easier to ignore sin than to expose it. It is easier to justify the sinner than to demand his repentance. It is easier to criticize the preaching of truth than to endorse it. It is easier to be silent than to contend for the faith. It is easier to refuse an admonition than to receive it. It is easier to be worldly than to be godly. It is easier to commit sin than to avoid it. It is easier to neglect than to take heed. It is easier to give sparingly than to give liberally. It is easier to make excuses than to be faithful.

Why is this true? Simply because it is easier to travel the broad way than the narrow way. (Matt. 7:13-14).

—David Harkrider  
via MESSENGER OF TRUTH

## A DEBATE WITH THE MORMANS

A public debate is scheduled to be conducted in Gadsden, Alabama on June 26, 27, 29, 30, 1972. The disputants will be Carrol R. Sutton, a Christian and Mr. Alfred Ramsey, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Mr. Ramsey will affirm that **"Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and the Book of Morman is an inspired book of God as the New Testament is."** Carrol Sutton will deny that proposition. Carrol R. Sutton will affirm that **"The New Testament of Jesus Christ is the complete standard of authority in religious matters today."** Mr. Ramsey will deny this proposition.

Each session will last for two hours with each speaker having one thirty-minute, one twenty-minute, and one ten minute speech.

The discussion is to be conducted in the Goodyear CIO Union Hall on Hoke St. in East Gadsden.

The time is 7:30 p.m. We urge you to attend. Tell others and urge them to come.

## A Voice from The Past

"If it (\_\_\_\_\_) Orphan Home is an organization other than a local congregation, and congregations of the church of Christ are functioning through it, why may we not have them function through that, or some other organization as that, in mission work? ... Brethren call me at times for debates, and occasionally the missionary society is brought into the discussion. It is an organization through which congregations function. On what ground am I to oppose such organizations, and then defend the organization of the \_\_\_\_\_ Orphan Home?"

—C. R. Nichol (quoted by James A. Allen) in the GOSPEL ADVOCATE, June 15, 1933, page 571.

### A CORRECTION:

**For April Issue:** Number 3 under ANSWER on page 3 should have read: "Even if his assertion is so, this would not prove that such a practice is SCRIPTURAL."

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## Sentence Sermons

There is no ignorance like ignorance of God, and no poverty like poverty of soul.

Temper is a valuable possession, so don't lose it.

Dogs may be excellent companions for children, but not substitutes.

The drunk in the gutter is in a better place for himself, and us, than behind the steering wheel.

The devil likes to work in the dark, and no better cover does he ask than the fog-bank of unbelief.

A wise man will desire no more than he may get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contentedly.

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