

# 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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## SINS OF THE TONGUE

"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridlenth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." (James 1:26). And again, "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man and able also to bridle the whole body . . . . And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." (James 3:2, 6). The most prevalent sins among men today are those concerning the tongue. The religion of man is made vain due to the improper use of the tongue. But what are some of the sins committed by the tongue? Space will not permit us to speak of all such sins, but we do endeavor to discuss a few of them:

1. MURMURING AND COMPLAINING. This was one of the outstanding sins of the children of Israel. (Numbers 11:1; 16:41; 17:5; 10). Because of their murmurings, many of them perished in the wilderness. In 1 Corinthians 10:10, Paul refers to the history of Israel and warns: "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." True disciples of the Lord do not go around murmuring and complaining about their circum-

stances of life. They simply seek God first and have the assurance that He will take care of them. (Matthew 6:33). We need to heed Paul's admonition to the Philippians: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings . . ." (Phil. 2:14). When we are murmuring and complaining we are not a light for good to anyone.

2. PROFANITY AND FILTHY TALK. The third of the ten commandments said: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain . . ." (Exo. 20:7). God's name is holy and should not be spoken except with reverence and awe. When men and women use the name of the Lord in vain — either as a byword or as a curse word — they are guilty of sin. Some professed members of the church have been known to praise God's name on Sunday and with the same tongue curse their fellow man on Monday. "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things out not so to be." (James 3:10). Filthy, obscene, lewd talk

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**CARROL R. SUTTON**  
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

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## Editorial . . . . .

### What is Your Life? (CONCLUDED)

In our previous articles we have considered the question of life with reference to its ORIGIN, its PURPOSE and its LENGTH on earth. These studies have been based on the question in James 4:14: “. . . For what is your life? . . .” It has been shown from the Scriptures that GOD CREATED man. Man is, indeed, the offspring of God. Negatively, we have shown that the purpose of man on earth is not to obtain worldly wisdom, earthly wealth, or riches, not to enjoy worldly pleasures, power, fame or honor. Positively, it has been shown from the Scriptures that man has been placed on earth to glorify God and thus prepare for eternity. Let us now consider the question of life from another viewpoint.

#### WHAT IS YOUR LIFE WITH REFERENCE TO ITS DESTINY?

We have learned from the Scriptures where man originated, why man has been placed on earth and how long man shall live on earth. Let us now consider where man is going. Men are going to die physically and their spirits will return to God. Ecclesiastes 12:7 says: “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return

unto God who gave it.” Job asked the question: “If a man die shall he live again? . . .” (Job 14:14). This question is of common interest to the human family. Death is an appointment all of us must keep. However, death does not end us. There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust! Jesus said: “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” (John 5:28-29). In 1 Corinthians 15:13 Paul said: “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen” and in 1 Corinthians 15:22 he said: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Hebrews 9:27 says: “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

The resurrection is just as certain as is death. The judgment of all humanity is just as sure as death and the resurrection. “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12). Paul affirms that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” in 2 Corinthians 5:10. The word of Christ will judge us at the last day. (See John 12:48; Romans 2:16; Revelation 20:12-15).

The greatest of all separations will take place at the judgment. The righteous will be separated from the wicked and they (the righteous) will be told to “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” The wicked will be told to “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” (See Matthew 25:31-46). We can see from the Scriptures that the righteous will be saved eternally in heaven and the wicked will be punished forever and ever in hell! Being cast into “the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone” is the second death!

You had nothing to do with your origin. You can fulfill your purpose on earth by glorifying God and thus be

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### SINS OF THE TONGUE

is likewise sinful. Smutty jokes and vulgar language ought never to fall from the lips of the saints. "Let no corrupt speech proceed out of your mouth," (Eph. 4:29), is an admonition which all should heed.

3. OUR LITTLE "DIGS." By "digs" we are speaking of unkind remarks that are made about individuals. Some people possess a razor sharp, caustic tongue. With it they can cut a friend and foe alike. Such persons seemingly delight in taking little digs at others. There is no kindness in their speech. Christians are to put away "all bitterness . . . and clamor and railing . . . and be kind one to another. . . ." (Eph. 4:31-32). "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." (Proverbs 25:11). A fitly spoken word is not some nasty dig.

4. TALEBEARING. "A talebearer revealeth secrets." (Proverbs 11:13). He will cause contention. (Proverbs 26:20). He "separateth chief friends." (Proverbs 16:28.) Like a fly, the talebearer or gossiper picks up all of the filth that he can and scatters it wherever he goes. The gossiper is a snake in the grass. Paul condemned certain women for being "tattlers" and "busybodies." (1

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### WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

saved eternally in heaven or you can dishonor God by your attitude and actions and be lost forever in hell!

**What is your life with respect to its destiny?** Where are you going? Are you fulfilling your God-given **purpose** on earth? We plead with you to fulfill your **purpose** on earth that you may have genuine peace and true happiness here and in the world to come eternal bliss.

Yesterday is past and is gone forever! Tomorrow may never come! NOW is the time to "**prepare to meet thy God**" in judgment!

(CRS)

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### SINS OF THE TONGUE

Tim. 5:13). The Lord despises this odious sin. Children of God should always be careful how they repeat what they hear lest they be found guilty of gossiping.

5. LYING. There are no big lies and little lies in the Lord's sight. "All liars shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone." (Revelation 21:8). God hates a "lying tongue." (Proverbs 6:17). "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord; but they that deal truly are his delight." (Proverbs 12:22). Satan is the father of all lies. (John 8:44). As God's children we must "lie not one to another," but "putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor." (Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25). We must let our "yea be yea, and our nay, nay." (James 5:12). Let us carefully consider our words lest we speak that which is untrue and lose our souls.

6. FALSE TEACHING. "Many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1). Quite often they enter "in sheep's clothing" and devour the flock. (Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29-30). False teachers are "deceitful workers," pretending to be "ministers of righteousness." (2 Corinthians 11:13-15). Paul places anathema upon all of those who pervert God's word. (Gal. 1:6-9). Any person who uses his tongue to preach false doctrine will probably lead more souls to hell than all the talebearers, slanderers, and filthy talkers put together. This is a very devastating sin. We must be found "speaking the truth in love." (Eph. 4:15).

—Bobby K. Thompson in the  
LAKEVIEW BULLETIN

### Some One Has Said

"The entire object of true education is to make people not merely to do the right thing, but to enjoy the right thing; not merely industrious, but to love industry; not merely pure, but to love purity; not merely just, but to hunger and thirst for justice."

# WORSHIP

The Bible speaks of "ignorant worship," (Acts 17:23), "will worship," (Col. 2:23), "vain worship," (Mk. 7:7), and "true worship." (Jno. 4:23). This last group the Father seeketh to worship him.

True worship is directed to the right object — God. (Jno. 4:24; Matt. 4:10). We must not worship idols, (1 Cor. 8:4), men, (Acts 10:25-26), or even angels. (Rev. 22:8-9).

True worshippers have the right attitude — "in spirit." They worship reverently, (Heb. 12:28), humbly, (1 Pet. 5:6), willingly, (2 Cor. 9:7), orderly, (1 Cor. 14:40), with their mind on what they are doing. (1 Cor. 11:29).

True worshippers worship in the right way — "in truth." They study the "apostles' doctrine," (Acts 2:42; 2 John 9), sing, (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), pray, (1 Tim. 2:8; Acts 12:12), eat the Lord's supper each first day (1 Cor. 11:20-29; Acts 20:7), and give of their prosperity. (1 Cor. 16:2).

Are you a true worshipper?

—Jimmy Thomas

## The Hill-Sutton Debate

Over **one year** ago Albert Hill and the elders of the West Hobbs St. Church in Athens agreed to set the date in a short time for the debate that was scheduled to be conducted in May of 1974 but was temporarily postponed (not cancelled) due to an injury received by Carrol Sutton in an auto accident. At this writing, we have **not** received a date for the debate from either Albert Hill or the Hobbs St., elders.

Albert Hill had agreed to **affirm** that **"It is Scriptural for a church to permit the use of her buildings for Bible-centered schools, kindergartens and for fellowship meals and social gatherings."** Please analyze the proposition and see if you can possibly figure out **why** Albert Hill and the Hobbs St. elders are **so reluctant to honor their word and keep their agreement.** Could it be that they now realize their belief and practice can **not** be Scripturally defended?

It took ten years for D. L. Welch, a United Pentecostal preacher, to honor his agreement to debate me. We haven't given up on Albert Hill yet. It takes a lot of courage to defend the above proposition!

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## Sentence Sermons

It is never worth while to argue about the religion that you think too little of to practice.

The devil is never too busy to rock the cradle of a sleeping saint.

If you aren't big enough for criticism, you are really too small for praise.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Route 3, Highway 431 South  
Albertville, Alabama 35950