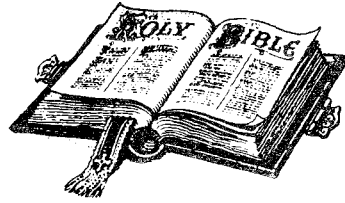


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## LOVE CHASTENS

Parents who really love their children chasten and discipline them. The Bible says so. The modern method of letting children do as they please can only end in ruin of one kind or another for the child and of disgrace and a broken heart for its author. The Bible says that too, as we shall notice.

Discipline is designed to correct. Therefore **"he that loveth him (his son) chasteneth him betimes."** (Prov. 13:24b). Punishment is properly administered in the best interest of the child, and not to quench the parent's anger. Love considers what the child needs and, regardless of how unpleasant it may be personally, does not withhold what is needed. **"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."** (Prov. 19:18). The hope of the child is that someone will love it enough to administer the needful chastisement before it is too late.

"I love my children too much to spank or switch them." Ever hear that? Well, it is not true. The truth is that such parents do not love their children enough. What they really mean is that, since it is unpleasant to them, they will withhold the discipline that their children need. They love themselves, not their children! No godly parent chastens children for pleasure; it is administered for the child's sake. **"He that**

**spareth the rod hateth his son."** (Prov. 13:24A). This should settle the matter. Parents who fuss and fret and threaten, but fail to chastise in the interest of the child's welfare, do not love half as much as they think they do. Or is it that they don't know what "love" is?

The heavenly Father employs discipline. He who is all wise knows that even His children need correction. **"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."** (Hebrews 12:6). **"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten . . ."** (Rev. 3:19). Notice that the chastisement is administered, not merely because justice dictates it, but because of love. Love chastens!

Love acts because it knows what the rod will produce. **"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him."** (Prov. 22:15). **"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."** (Prov. 29:15). The New Testament states it as follows: **"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."** (Hebrews 12:11).

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### Editorial - - -

#### **"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"** (Concluded)

In dealing with the subject of "Specific Wickedness," in the October, 1983 issue of THE INSTRUCTOR, I showed how that "Presuming to speak for God something that God has not spoken" is wickedness. I gave such passages as Deut. 18:20; 4:2; 1 Cor. 4:6; Col. 3:17 and 2 John 9 as proof that we have **no right** to speak unless God authorizes us to speak. I also stated: "Here are some things that men PRESUME are pleasing to God, but God has NOT authorized them to teach these things." I then listed twenty-five (25) things. At that time I had no intention of discussing each of these things as I have since done. If I had at that time intended to write on these subjects, I would have approached a discussion of them in a different way. (I would have preferred a positive approach.) I was trying to emphasize the fact that we must **not** teach anything unless it is authorized in God's Word! I also stated that "That person that so speaks is guilty of wickedness." I believed then (as I do now) that each of those statements are false. However, some readers (one from Alabama, one from West Virginia and one from Tennessee) requested that I give **Scriptural proof** for the opposite views than those given in those twenty-five statements. The readers were certainly within their rights. They were endeavoring to "try the spirits" to see if the

truth was being advocated. (Cf. 1 Jno. 4:1). They were endeavoring to "prove all things" in keeping with Paul's admonition in 1 Thess. 5:21. I certainly commend those who have a desire to know the truth of God and are willing to call on those who advocate a view (whether it is done in a positive way or in a negative way) to give **Scriptural proof** for that view. Time and space have not allowed me to discuss any of the subjects as thoroughly as they could be discussed. However, I trust that all who have **sincerely** studied the articles written in this series have been able to understand the positions (views) set forth and the reasons for them. I have endeavored to speak so as to be understood.

I believe that those who advocate any or all of the views set forth in those twenty-five statements do so **without** authority from God to so speak. They speak **presumptuously** when they say, "The Scriptures teach" those things. To speak something that is **not** God's will and attribute that that teaching (or view) to God is **lawlessness** (or **iniquity**). In other words, it constitutes **wickedness!** The person that so speaks is **guilty** of wickedness. If a person acts **without authority from God**, he is acting **wickedly** in that activity. Even a **wrong thought** may constitute wickedness. As I pointed out in THE INSTRUCTOR, August, 1983, "A **WRONG THOUGHT** caused Simon to be in the gall of bitterness. A **WRONG THOUGHT** caused Simon to be in the bond of iniquity. A **WRONG THOUGHT** caused him to be in a perishing condition. This **WRONG THOUGHT** prompted the wrong action. This **WRONG THOUGHT** is specifically called **WICKEDNESS.**" (See Acts 8:12-24). Your thoughts may make you wicked! Please don't say what you think (and don't act on what your thinking) unless your thinking is in harmony with God's will. Remember that Peter said: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . ." (1 Pet. 4:11).

#### OBLIGATED TO PROVE

If a person sets forth a teaching or a

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## PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN

practice as being right, he is obligated to **prove by the Scriptures** that such teaching or practice is **right**. (See Eph. 5:10; 2 Jno. 9 & 1 Pet. 4:11). A person's teaching **must** be right even if his teaching is negative. For examples: (1) A person who teaches that "Baptism is **not** essential to salvation" is obligated to prove that such is so. (2) A person who teaches that "A Christian cannot fall from grace and be eternally lost" is obligated to prove that such is the case. (3) A person who teaches that "We are **not** under any system of law" is obligated to prove it. (4) A person who teaches that "It does **not** matter how a person worships God" is obligated to prove that such is so. (5) A person who teaches that "There is nothing in a name" must prove it. (6) A person who teaches that "A church can **not** withdraw fellowship from a person who is not a member of that local church" must prove that such is the case. (7) A person who teaches that "Jesus died only for the elect" is obligated to prove it. (8) A person who teaches that "The church is **not** important" must prove that it is true. (9) A person who teaches that "The Scriptures are **not** sufficient to guide us" is obligated to prove it, and, (10) A person who teaches that "A church can **not** withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church" is obligated to prove that such teaching is in harmony with God's Word. In fact, if I understand the Word of God, a person has no more right to teach error that is stated in a **negative** way any more than he does if it is stated in a **positive** way. Neither is he under **any less obligation before God** to prove what he teaches in a negative way than he is if it is stated in a positive way.

### A CHALLENGE

We hereby respectfully challenge any sincere person to affirm in a series of public discussions that "**The Scriptures teach . . .**" any of the twenty five statements that are listed in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, that we have been discussing the last several months. If you are willing to **affirm** one or more of those twenty-five items (statements) in public discussion,

please write to us and let us know which one (or ones) you are willing to affirm and we will proceed to make fair and equitable arrangements for such discussions.

If you teach **any** of those things under consideration, you have an **obligation** to give Scriptural proof for such teaching. You can **not** escape or evade responsibility to give **proof** from the **Scriptures** for your teaching (or your practice if you practice such) by saying, "**The burden of proof lies not with him who is opposing a practice, but with him who favors it.**" **YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO . . . speak as the oracles of God . . .**" (1 Pet. 4:11).

If I teach that "**It is sinful to play mechanical instruments of music in worship unto God in our assemblies**", (and I do so teach), I should **prove** that such is the case! Of course, those who advocate that "**It is Scriptural to play mechanical instruments of music in worship unto God in our assemblies**" should **prove** by the Scriptures that such is authorized in the book of the God of heaven!

It seems to me that some preachers (and others) think that they must speak as the oracles of God **ONLY** when they are affirming a practice is right. Obviously, they think they have the right to say a practice (or teaching) is **wrong** without **proving by the Scriptures** that such is the case. But please remember that the apostle Peter said: "**If any man speak** (he did **not** say, positively, but not negatively — CRS), **let him speak as the oracles of God . . .**" (1 Pet. 4:11) **NOTE: Any and every time a person speaks, he must speak in accordance with God's will.**

If you have been guilty of **presuming to speak for God** things that God has **not** authorized you to speak, please repent while you have time and opportunity.

(CRS)

## When I Have Lost My Temple

When I have lost my temper,  
I have lost my reason too.  
I'm never too proud of anything  
which angrily I do.

When I have talked in anger,  
and my cheeks are flaming red,  
I've always uttered something  
which I wish I hadn't said.

In anger I have never done  
a kindly deed and wise,  
But many things for which I felt  
I should apologize.

In looking back across my life,  
and all I've lost and made,  
I can't recall a single time,  
when fury ever paid!

Selected

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## LOVE CHASTENS

How shall we treat our children? If we fail to correct and punish them, we are told by God that we do not love them, and it is said that such children are treated as illegitimates and not as sons. (See Hebrews 12:8). "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons, the late trainer of champion, thoroughbred race horses, and the patriarch of a large, closely knit and loving family, was asked his secret. He replied that he reared children just like he trained horses. "Love them a lot, let them know you love them a lot, but don't let 'em get away with nothing."

That doesn't miss it much. The Bible does not miss it at all. Love your children.

— Jere Frost  
in SWORD & SHIELD

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

Some people give unto the Lord a tenth — of what they ought to give.

\* \* \* \* \*

It isn't your possessions or position, but your disposition that makes you happy.

\* \* \* \* \*

You can go higher than the moon if you listen to and follow God's instructions.

\* \* \* \* \*

One does not necessarily know music just because he toots his own horn.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sometimes silence is not golden but yellow. — Wilbur D. Gough

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