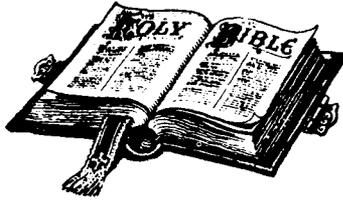


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

Volume 24

MAY, 1987

Number 5

IMPERSONAL BASIS

"Calling names of false teachers and their aides and sympathizers is neither undignified nor discourteous because Paul did it — and (Paul was — CRS) courteous, dignified and educated. He said **"Demas forsook me, having loved this present world."** It was hard on Demas for Paul to say that publicly. He should have taken that up with Demas privately! Again, he said that Hymenaeus and Phyletus had shipwrecked their faith and were overthrowing the faith of others by the theory of the resurrection, and he wrote down in the New Testament (a rather dignified book) that he had turned those brethren of his over to Satan. He clashed with Barnabas on one occasion and withstood Peter to his face and rebuked him publicly. Neither incident ruined the church, nor marred the dignity of the New Testament. He further said that Alexander the copersmith did him much evil and declared that the Lord would reward him for what he did. Paul did not seem to covet the kind of reward he intimated Alexander would get. He told a perverter of the truth one time that he was full of guile and villainy, calling him a

son of the devil, and asked him if he ever intended to quit perverting the way of the Lord.

When a paper develops better manners than the New Testament and a preacher becomes more dignified than the apostles, neither is worth anything to the defense of the truth nor to the cause of Christ."

—Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

in THE BANNER, Feb. 10, 1957

Judge Sam Davis Tatum

"... and since I became Judge of the Juvenile Court on June 1, 1939, there have sat before me approximately 51,000 youngsters under the age of eighteen for violating the law within that section. And by their own statements, of that approximate 51,000 only in twenty-eight instances were father and mother and children going to Sunday School and Church regularly at the time that child became involved in trouble. And of that approximate 51,000, by their own statements, only 154 of them were going to Sunday School and Church regularly at the time they became involved in trouble."

— WORDS OF WISDOM, 1967, page 14

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

RELIGIOUS, BUT LOST *(Concluded)*

In our previous studies we showed from the Scriptures that it is possible for a person to be **religious, but lost!** We gave the following people as examples of such.

1. THOSE MENTIONED IN MATTHEW 7: 21-23.
2. THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES IN MATTHEW 23.
3. THE PHARISEES IN LUKE 18: 9-14.
4. WORSHIPPERS OF BAAL. (I Kings 16:30-31; 18:17-40).
5. THE ATHENIANS. (See Acts 17: 16-23, 32).
6. THE EPHESIANS IN ACTS 19: 21-41.
7. THE EUNUCH OF ETHIOPIA IN ACTS 8: 25-39.
8. SAUL OF TARSUS. (See Acts 9, 22, 26; Phil. 3: 4-6).
9. CORNELIUS IN ACTS 10 & 11.
10. LYDIA IN ACTS 16:14-15.

Let's keep in mind that according to the testimony of the Scriptures the above mentioned people were **religious, but lost.**

The fact that one is **religious** does **not** mean that he is saved! Moslems, Hindus, Catholics, Protestants, Mormons, "Witnesses of Jehovah", followers of Krishna, "Moonies", Freemasons, etc. are **religious**, but the evidence in God's Word indicates that they are **lost!**

There is no doubt that people may be **religious** and be in man made religious organizations and yet be **lost.** It is also possible for people to be in the church that Jesus purchased with his own blood and **be religious, but lost!** Let us consider some examples of such people.

1. ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA IN ACTS 5: 1-11. This man and his wife sold a possession, kept back part of the price and brought a certain part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. They lied to the Holy Spirit after privily agreeing together. Both of them were killed.

Yes, they were religious. They brought a certain part of the price (for which they had sold their land) and laid it at the apostles' feet. Although they were **religious**, they were **lost** because Revelation 21:8 says that ". . . All liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

2. SIMON IN ACTS 8:5-24. From a study of this passage we learn that Simon heard Christ preached, believed and was baptized. Thus he was saved from his past sins. (See Mark 16:15-16). He became a child of God by faith. (See Gal. 3:26-27).

The apostles (Peter and John) came to Samaria (where Simon dwelt) and imparted a miraculous gift of the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans who had heard Christ preached by Philip, believed and were baptized. "**When Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wicked-**

(Continued on page 3)

RELIGIOUS, BUT LOST

(Continued from page 2)

ness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." Please consider the following facts:

(1) Simon was saved from his past sins.

(2) He was a child of God.

(3) He **sinned in thinking** that the gift of God (power to confer the Holy Ghost in a miraculous way upon others as the apostles had) could be purchased with money. He evidenced his **thinking** by offering the apostles money for such power.

(4) Then his heart was **not** right in the sight of God.

(5) He was in the gall of bitterness.

(6) He was in the bond of iniquity.

(7) He had committed **wickedness**.

(8) He needed forgiveness.

(9) He was told to "**repent**" and "**pray God**."

(10) He requested Peter to pray for him.

Although Simon was **religious**, he was in a **lost** condition and stood in need of **repentance** and **prayer**.

3. DIOTREPHESES IN 3 JOHN 9-11. This passage reads as follows: "**I wrote unto the church: but Diotrophes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would and casteth them out of the church.**" Please consider the following.

(1) Obviously Diotrophes was a member of the church because he loved to have the preeminence among those who made up the church to whom "**the elder**" (John) wrote.

(2) Diotrophes loved preeminence among Christians. This attitude is contrary to the spirit of Christ and is

sinful. (See Matthew 18:1-4; Phil. 2:3-11; 1 Peter 5:5-7; Matthew 23:1-12).

(3) He would **not** receive John and his companions.

(4) He prated against John and his companions with **malicious** words.

(5) He forbade others to receive the brethren.

(6) He cast those who would receive the brethren out of the church.

(7) John said: "**Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, . . .**"

Although Diotrophes was **religious**, he was in a **sinful** condition and thus in a **lost** condition!

4. CORINTHIANS. We learn from 1 Cor. 6:1-8 that there was "**a fault**" among the Corinthians because they went "**to law one with another**" and "**that before the unbelievers**. Paul said: "**Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.**"

In 1 Cor. 5:1-13 we learn that there was "**fornication**" among them and "**such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.**" They were "**puffed up and had not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among**" them. Their glorying was **not** good. They were told to put that **wicked person away from among themselves**. They were to "**purge out**" the old leaven that they might "**be a new lump.**"

We learn from 1 Cor. 3:1-3 that Paul could not speak unto some of the Corinthians "**as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal.**" Works of the flesh such as **envying, strife** and **divisions** were among them. They were **canal** and **walked as men!**

The fact that the Corinthians were in the church did **not** mean that they were in a **saved** condition at this time.

5. THE CHURCH IN EPHEBUS IN REVELATION 3:1-7. Although this church could **not** bear those who were evil and had **tried** those who said they were apostles and were **not**, and had

(Continued on page 4)

RELIGIOUS, BUT LOST

(Continued from page 3)

found them **liars**, and had borne, and had patience and had labored and had **not** fainted, **they had left their first love. They had fallen!** They were told to **repent** and **do their first works** or else Jesus would come unto them quickly and remove their candlestick out of his place.

They were **religious, but in a fallen condition** and thus stood in need of repentance.

6. THE CHURCH IN LAODICEA IN REVELATION 3:14-22. This church was "**lukewarm.**" Although they boasted about being rich and needing nothing, Jesus told them they were **wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.** They were told to "**Be zealous therefore, and repent, pent.**"

Although they were **religious**, Jesus said, "**I will spue thee out of my mouth.**"

Each of us should realize that we can not be saved eternally unless we are religious. We **must** practice pure and undefiled religious. We **must not** make

our religion vain by **not** bridling our tongues or by teaching for doctrines the commandments of men or by lying, evil thinking, loving preeminence, being carnal, leaving our first love or by being lukewarm. (See James 1:22-27; Matthew 15:7-9).

Are you religious? Are you lost? If you are lost, you don't have to remain lost. **Be religious by faith** in and obedience to the God of heaven, as revealed in the Scriptures, and **you will be saved eternally!**

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS AT THE BUILDING OF THE EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT 1107 Highway 431 South in Albertville, Alabama JUNE 14-19, 1987. JOHN CLARK of Houston, Texas WILL BE PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. THE TIME WILL BE 7:30 each evening except on the Lord's Day. TELL OTHERS, COME AND BRING A FRIEND!

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

When you are in the right you can afford to keep your temper; when you are wrong, you can't afford to lose it.

* * * * *

A true friend is one that knows us and yet loves us.

* * * * *

Unless you stay humble, you will stumble.

* * * * *

A strong faith weakens fear.

* * * * *

When you share joy you multiply it.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, Alabama 35950