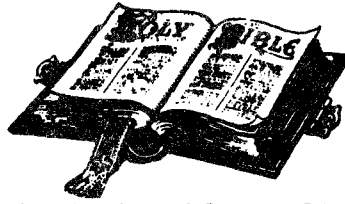


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ATHEIST AND A CHRISTIAN?**

In response to the question, "What is the difference between an **atheist** and a **Christian**," I reply: There are **many** differences! However, at this time let us consider **four** major differences.

1. THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVES THAT GOD IS, AND THE ATHEIST BELIEVES THAT GOD IS NOT! Hebrews 11:6 says: "**But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to Him must believe that God is, and the He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.**" The Christian has **faith**! He believes that God is! The atheist does **NOT** believe that God is! Evidence all about us certainly attest to the existence of God! Even "**The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament sheweth His handywork.**" (Psa. 19:1). The ungodly described in Rom. 1 are "**without excuse**" because "**His eternal power and Godhead**" can be "**clearly seen.**" The Psalmist said: "**The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.**" (14:1).

2. THE CHRISTIAN HAS HIS MORALS AND VALUES BASED

IN AND ON THE PRINCIPLES REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT OF CHRIST (AN UNCHANGING STANDARD), BUT THE ATHEIST HAS NO STANDARD AT ALL UPON WHICH MORALS AND VALUES SHOULD BE BASED! (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 28:18; John 12:48 & James 2:12). Christians accept this **standard** because they believe the Scriptures are **inspired of God**! Christians believe that they must "**give account**" of themselves to God! Atheists do **not**! (See Rom. 14:12).

3. THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORS TO PLEASE AND GLORIFY GOD, BUT THE ATHEIST ENDEAVORS TO PLEASE AND GLORIFY SELF! Paul said to Christians: "**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**" (1 Cor. 6:20). He also said: "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" (1 Cor. 10:31). In the mind of the atheist, there is nothing or **no one** higher than **man**!

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### *Editorial . . .*

#### **“RESIST THE DEVIL”**

Many who serve Christ are discouraged. They are plagued with heartaches, disappointments, problems and afflictions. The spirit of materialism has afflicted many. Some sense that they are facing defeat. They are pessimistic. No doubt, fear grips the hearts of some. Weakness has set in. Satan, no doubt, have many people under his influence.

It is time that we recognize that Satan uses such things as mentioned above as devices to deceive, discourage and destroy the faith of many. As Paul said, “. . . **we are not ignorant of his devices.**” (2 Cor. 2:11). Satan was to “sift” Peter “as wheat” because he desired to have him (and, no doubt, other disciples). (Cf. Luke 22:31-32). Paul admonished the saints at Ephesus saying, **“Neither give place to the devil.”** (Eph. 4:27). James exhorted: **“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”** (4:7). Peter said: **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, . . .”** (1 Peter 5:8-9). The serpent is subtle and seeks to beguile us. (Cf. 2 Cor. 11:3).

We must **not** allow Satan to get an advantage of us. We must learn to recognize his devices and **resist** him. We must be **sober and vigi-**

**lant! We must resist the devil! We must resist him stedfast in the faith!**

#### HOW CAN WE RESIST THE DEVIL?

Here are some things we can do to resist the devil.

1. **WE CAN APPEAL TO THE WORD OF GOD!** When Jesus was tempted of the devil, each time He responded by appealing to **“It is written. . .”** After the third such appeal we read: **“Then the devil leaveth him, . . .”** (Cf. Matthew 4:1-11). There is no substitute for the **Word of God!** It produces faith in our hearts! It reproves, corrects and instructs us in what is right! (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17). The Word of God can **build us up!** (Cf. Acts 20:32). It is **God’s power to save us** (Cf. Romans 1:16; James 1:21).

2. **WE CAN THINK ON GOOD THINGS!** As we think, we **are** or become. (Cf. Proverbs 23:7). We should think on things that are honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. (Cf. Phil. 4:8). Evil originates in the heart! (Cf. Matthew 15:18-20). We must keep our hearts with **diligence!** (Cf. Proverbs 4:23). What we **see** and **hear** affect our thoughts. We must **not** allow our eyes to cause us to commit **adultery** or to **lust** after other **evil** things!

3. **WE CAN AVOID EVIL COMPANIONS!** The apostle Paul warned: **“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”** (1 Cor. 15:33). We learn from Solomon that **“. . . A companion of fools shall be destroyed.”** (Proverbs 13:20). We should seek to associate closely with wise men and women who fear God and keep His commandments. Proverbs 13:20 also says: **“He that walketh with wise men shall be wise. . .”** Foolish people should **not** be our bosom companions lest we be destroyed.

4. **WE CAN CRUCIFY THE LUSTS OF FLESH!** Paul declared:

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**“And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”** (Galatians 5:24). The world was crucified unto Paul and Paul was crucified unto the world. (Cf. Galatians 6:14). Paul said: **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”** (Galatians 2:20). Saints are told to **“Mortify”** (i.e., put to death) fornication, uncleanness, etc. in Colossians 3:5-10. In speaking to God’s people Paul warned: **“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God; That no man go beyond the defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”** (1 Thess. 4:3-7). Yes, we can crucify the lusts of the flesh! In fact, the Lord expects us to do just that.

5. WE CAN FLEE FROM EVIL! Paul exhorted Christians to **“Flee fornication . . .”** in his epistle to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 6:18 and to **“flee from idolatry”** in 1 Cor. 10:14. After discussing the need for contentment and warning about the evils associated with the **love of money** Paul admonished Timothy to **“flee these things. . .”** in 1 Tim. 6:11. The apostle Peter admonished God’s children to **“ . . . abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.”** (1 Peter 2:11). **Fleeing**

involves an **active** resistance! With every temptation we face, God provides a way of escape! (Cf. 1 Cor. 10:13).

6. WE CAN OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOOD! In Romans 12:21 Paul exhorted saints to **“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”** Disciples were told to **“ . . . Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”** (Matthew 5:44). Overcoming evil requires a sincere desire, vigilance, sacrifice and effort. To overcome evil we must **not** practice, support, condone or make a “joke” out of evil! We must **not** rejoice in iniquity!

7. WE CAN PRAY TO GOD! Jesus taught His disciples to pray: **“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. . .”** (Matthew 6:13). In Matthew 26:41 Jesus exhorted His disciples to **“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: . . .”** (Also see Luke 22:40). After the admonition to “watch and pray . . .” Jesus said: **“ . . . The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** We should see our need for strength from the Lord to resist and overcome temptations! (Cf. Phil. 4:13). We should ask God to give us wisdom to enable us to make proper decisions and choices.

8. WE CAN ADD OR DEVELOP COURAGE TO RESIST THE DEVIL — EVIL WHEN WE MUST STAND ALONE! Repeatedly, Joshua and the Israelites were admonished to **“Be strong, and of a good courage, . . .”** (Cf. Dt. 31:6, 7, 23; Joshua 1:6, 9, 18). John the Baptist and Paul are two examples of men of great courage. Along this line Jesus Christ is the greatest of all examples!

Let each of us sincerely endeavor to **resist the devil!**

(CRS)

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ATHEIST AND A CHRISTIAN?

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Therefore, there is **no one** higher than **man** to please and glorify.

4. THE CHRISTIAN HAS AN **ENDLESS HOPE**, BUT THE ATHEIST HAS A **HOPELESS END!** Both the atheist and the Christian are aware of the fact of death. They both realize that **man will die!** In the thinking of the atheist, death ends the **existence** of man! **Not so** in the thinking of the Christian! Death does **not** end the **existence** of man! It merely ends his **physical body** and his time **here on earth!** Titus 1:2 says: "**In HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began.**" The atheist has **NO HOPE** beyond the grave, but the Christian **HAS HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE!** The **hope** of the Christian is "**an anchor**

**of the soul, both sure and steadfast.**" (See Heb. 6:9; Rom. 5:1-9 & 8:24).

In view of these major differences between an atheist and a Christian and the present **and** future consequences of these differences, we would like to exhort and encourage **all to truly be Christians!**

(CRS)

## EAST ALBERTVILLE MEETINGS

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS AT THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH THAT MEETS AT 4777 U.S. HIGHWAY 431 in ALBERTVILLE, ALABAMA JUNE 5-10, 1994.

HIRAM HUTTO of Athens, Alabama WILL BE PREACHING! We will meet at 7:30 each evening **except** on the Lord's Day we will meet at our regular times.

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

We should be "conservative" in our thinking and "liberal" in our giving.

\* \* \* \* \*

We should be **lowly**, but not **lying**

\* \* \* \* \*

We should be **meek**, but not **weak!**

\* \* \* \* \*

We should be "considerate," but not "compromising!"

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