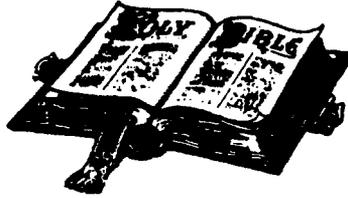


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Theories abound as to who Jesus Christ is. The only reliable information we have about Jesus is revealed in the Scriptures. To understand who Jesus is we must lay aside traditions, opinions, preferences, emotions, etc. and appeal to and accept God's revelation in the Scriptures. Who is Jesus Christ?

1. JESUS CHRIST IS THE WORD! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) ..." (John 1: 1-14). Also read 1 John 1:1 & 5:7).

2. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD! DEITY! 1 John 4:15 says: "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." Also read Mt. 3:17; Mk. 1:1; John 1:34; 10:31-36; Rom. 1:3-4; etc.

3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF MAN! A MAN! Jesus asked: "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?" (Mt. 16:13) Heb. 10:12 says: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the

right hand of God." Also read Mt. 12:40; Lk. 9:22-26 John 3:13; 1 John 4:1-3 & 1 Tim. 2:5.

4. JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAVIOUR! 1 John 4:14 says: "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." Also read Luke 2:11; John 3:16-17 & Acts 5:30-31.

5. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR MEDIATOR! Paul declared: "For there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Tim. 2:5). Note: This was written years after the ascension of Christ into heaven. Jesus was spoken of as "the man Christ Jesus."

6. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE! John declared: "...And if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (1 John 2:1).

7. JESUS CHRIST IS OUR HIGH PRIEST! Hebrews 3:1 says: "...Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." Also read Heb. 2:17 & 4:14-15.

Do you believe the above Scriptures? Who do you think Jesus is? How do you value Him?

(CRS)

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Editorial ...

"I CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL ANYWHERE"

In an attempt to justify their having fellowship with a group of unfaithful brethren is some particular place, a number of preaching brethren have said: **"I can preach the gospel anywhere."** These brethren may add: **"I can even preach in denominational churches."**

Indeed, it is the will of God that the gospel be preached to all! In was the will of God that the apostles go **"...into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."** (Cf. Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:19-20; Lk. 24:47). Without hearing the word people cannot come (be drawn) to Christ. (Cf. John 6:44-45). Without hearing the word of God a person cannot have faith. (Cf. Rom. 10:17). To Timothy Paul wrote: **"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."** (2 Tim. 2:2). Since the gospel is God's power **"unto salvation"** it must be preached, heard, believed and obeyed! (Cf. Rom. 1:16; Rom. 10:14-17; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). All who understand

these facts certainly are in favor of the gospel being preached **"to every creature"** in **"all nations"** as it was done in the first century. (Cf. Col. 1:5-6; 1:23; Rom. 10:14-18).

Neither I nor any other Bible believer would doubt for a moment that a person has the right to (and should) preach the gospel to anyone under the proper circumstances.

It may be argued by some that "since Paul went into Jewish synagogues and preached to them we have the right to go into denominational churches and unfaithful churches of Christ and preach to them." Yes, we learn from Acts 9:20-22 that Paul preached in the synagogues. We read: **"And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God... Saul increased the more in strength, and founded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ."** Do we have the right to do (in principle) what Paul did in the first century? Yes, we do have that right. (Cf. 1 Cor. 11:1 & Phil. 4:9). Did Paul go into the synagogues to have fellowship with the Jews? No! He went into the synagogues to declare unto them a message they needed to hear to enable them to make needed changes in their lives. They were not right with God! They were in sin! They were lost! They needed to hear gospel! Paul told them what they needed to hear. His preaching was plain! His message was clear! Christ is the Son of God! They needed to accept this fact. Paul did not preach a lesson on something else and privately tell the leaders of the synagogues that they were wrong in not accepting Christ as the Son of God. In the next verse (Acts 9:23) we read: **"And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him."**

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"I CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL ANYWHERE"

Paul knew of their plot to kill him and **"...the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket"** (V. 25) and he escaped and went to Jerusalem. From this we learn that the Jews in Damascus did not accept the message preached and correct their lives to be right with God, but they tried to kill the messenger. However, Paul had done his duty. He was pure from their blood!

It takes faith and courage to preach as Paul did! Today, many preachers are "politicians". Some preachers will ignore the sin and/or error in the lives of unfaithful brethren while preaching lessons with which they are in agreement. Some seek to gain the affection of unfaithful brethren by having fellowship with them in their sins. It takes courage and boldness to be a "Nathan" and say to an unfaithful brother: **"Thou art the man!"** (See 2 Sam. 12:7). Or to say to a group of unfaithful brethren: **"You are guilty of sin"** and point it out to them!

In three of His letters to the churches in Asia Jesus pointed out to them some things which were commendable and then He said: **"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee,..."** (to the church of Ephesus - Rev. 2:4) or **"But I have a few things against thee,..."** (to the church in Pergamos - Rev. 2:14) or **"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee,..."** (to the church in Thyatira - Rev. 2:20). In each case Jesus warned them to repent or suffer dire consequences. We should follow the example of Jesus. (See 1 Pet. 2:21).

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it Scriptural for a preacher to go into a denominational church and preach the gospel? Yes, under the prop-

er circumstances. (Cf. Paul in Acts 9:20-22).

It would be wrong if the preacher only preaches lessons (although true) with which all are in agreement. He needs to preach what the people need to hear in order to make corrections in their lives that they might be right with God. He is obligated to "reprove" and "rebuke" and "exhort" with all longsuffering and doctrine. (See 2 Tim. 4:2; 3:16-17).

It would be wrong to have fellowship with those who are in sin although one might be preaching the truth to them. (See Eph. 5:11-12; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Tim. 5:22 & 2 John 9-11). Surely one should not act in such a way as to leave the impression that he thinks that they are right with God.

2. Is it Scriptural for a preacher to go into a group of unfaithful brethren and preach the gospel? Yes, under the proper circumstances.

It would be wrong if the preacher only preaches lessons (although true) with which all are in agreement. He is obligated to preach what the brethren need to hear to enable them to make the needed corrections in their lives that they might be right with God. As he instructs them in righteousness, as he preaches the word (gospel) he needs to "reprove" and "rebuke" and "exhort". (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 4:2-4).

It would be wrong to have fellowship with those who are in sin although one might be preaching the truth. (See 2 Cor. 6:14-16; Eph. 5:11-12; Rom. 16:17-18). When Peter came to Antioch, Paul **"withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."** Peter was guilty of hypocrisy. He was not walking uprightly according to the truth of the gospel. Others knew how Peter had acted.

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"I CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL ANYWHERE"

Paul withstood (opposed, resisted) Peter "before them all." (See Gal. 2:11-14). The gospel needed to be applied to Peter's actions! It enjoins honesty and sincerity and condemns hypocrisy - and so should we. (See 2 Cor. 8:8, 21; Rom. 12:17; 1 Pet. 2:1 & Jas. 3:17). Would Paul have been approved of God if he had failed to withstand Peter to his face "before them all"? Suppose he had privately told Peter he was wrong (many won't even do this), but before others he commended and prayed with him; would God have approved of his actions? What about preachers acting that today? Does God approve?

GOSPEL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS at the building of the church that meets in East Albertville. These meetings will be conducted **June 2-7, 1996**. We will be meeting **on Sunday June 2 at 9:30 AM; 10:30 AM and 6:00 AM**. We will meet at **7:00 PM** each evening Monday through Friday (June 3-7).

Our beloved brother **Windell Wiser** of Athen, Alabama will be preaching. There will be congregational singing, fervent prayers and plain GOSPEL preaching but no collections will be taken - except on the Lord's Day. Please make plans to be with us! Tell others!

RADIO PROGRAMS each day Monday through Saturday at 11:15 AM and on Sunday at 8:30 AM over WBSA, 1300 on the AM dial. Tune in!

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

God expects us to live straight in the midst of a crooked generation.

Self restraint is the flange that keeps character on the right track.

You cannot climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets.

There is no prospect of reduction in the wages of sin!

We cannot accept the Christ of the cross without accepting the cross of Christ!

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