

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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BIBLE READING IS DESTRUCTIVE!

As little as you may have thought about it, the above statement is true. There is destruction in reading the Bible because such reading will destroy certain things as far as that particular person is concerned.

Denominational theories are destroyed by Bible reading. Several faithful gospel preachers destroyed their own denominational teachings because they read the Bible in an effort to meet a preacher of the church of Christ in public debate. Their reading proved that the doctrines of the denomination were not in the Bible.

Certain organizations are destroyed by reading the Bible. In the first place, the Bible does not mention them at all even though they lay claim to being religious organizations. Read the Bible carefully, and you will not find such names as Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Catholic Church, or Christian Church. Bible reading will destroy whatever illusions you may have had that such names were in God's Book. The worship and practice of such organizations will be destroyed for the person who reads the Bible. The counting of beads, the burning of incense, the use of instruments of

music in the worship, the practice of miraculous healings, and many other things are destroyed for the open-minded man or woman who reads the Bible.

Bible reading will help to destroy sin in your life. God's Word is pictured as being sharper than a two-edged sword. At the same time that it lays bare the sins of an unrighteous life and convicts the sinner of the error of his way, it also brings the knowledge of the plan of salvation by which we gain that eternal reward.

Let us read the Bible. Let us depend upon what God says, and not upon what some man, any man, says that God says. He who reads for himself will derive benefits untold from the Word of the Lord.

—Foster Ramsey
in THE WATCHMAN.

IT WAS THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES WHO SAID: "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

—(Galatians 3:26-27)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial.....

In Defense of The Truth

(NUMBER 22)

History is again repeating itself. **Seeds of digression** were sown in ancient Israel by those from within. This resulted in God's people going astray and finally being led into captivity. In the first century **seeds of digression** were sown among God's people. This, too, brought about an **apostasy**. **Seeds of digression** were sown in the nineteenth century among the people of God, and another **apostasy** developed which culminated in the formation of another human denomination.

Yes, history is again repeating itself. For a number of years, **R. W. Gray, the North Broad Church, and a host of other brethren** have been sowing **seeds of digression**. Please consider carefully and prayerfully the following facts.

1. **THEY HAVE ACTED WITHOUT DIVINE AUTHORITY** in contributing to **unscriptural projects and in teaching that such is Scriptural**. Since church supported human institutions such as **Childhaven** and sponsoring church arrangements such as **The Herald of Truth** are **NOT authorized** in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, **they cannot be supported with divine approval**. (See Matt. 28:18; Col. 3:17; 2 John 9; Matt. 7:21-23).

2. **THEY HAVE SET A PRECEDENT FOR ACTING WITHOUT DIVINE AUTHORITY**. Their "precedent" will allow them (and others) to accept other **unauthorized projects** such as church supported **schools, student centers, camps kindergartens, banquets, parties, ball teams, etc.** R. W. Gray has stated that he does **NOT** believe that such is Scriptural. Editor Gray said: **"The 'Christian School' operating as an educational institution, teaching secular subjects, engaging in sports, recreation, etc., is not doing a work God authorized churches to do. There is no excuse, therefore, for a church to contribute to such schools."** (GRAY-JAMERSON EXCHANGE, Gray's 4th Reply, p. 2). He also said: **"We have agreed together that churches cannot Scripturally aid schools, engage in recreation-per-se, and many other things."** (GRAY-JAMERSON EXCHANGE, Gray's 5th reply, p. 7). He further stated that **"You cannot, therefore, bring recreation into church activities through the general principle of doing a good thing."** (GRAY-JAMERSON EXCHANGE, Gray's 3rd reply, p. 6). As you no doubt know, many brethren with whom editor Gray has fellowship, **DO ACCEPT** such things as mentioned above. The "precedent" that has been set by editor Gray and others will also allow church supported **missionary societies and mechanical instrumental music in worship**.

3. **THEY TRY TO JUSTIFY THEIR INNOVATIONS ON THE GROUNDS OF EXPEDIENCY**. Others try to justify church supported missionary organizations, schools, instrumental music in worship, and church supported recreation and entertainment on the same grounds.

To be expedient, a thing (or action) must first be lawful. It must be authorized. (See 1 Cor. 6:12; Col. 3:17). **To be expedient, a thing (or action) must edify.** (See 1 Cor. 10:23; Rom. 14:17-19). The "projects" discussed in this series of articles are **not authorized**; hence they are **not lawful**; **Neither do they edify. Therefore, they can not be expedients!**

4. **THEY HAVE PRODUCED (NO DOUBT, UNINTENTIONAL IN MANY INSTANCES) AN ATTITUDE OF DIS-**

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RESPECT FOR SCRIPTURAL AUTHORITY. In his articles in the North Broad Bulletin which we have reviewed, **R. W. Gray emphasized that there is no pattern in the New Testament for relief work, nor a pattern for churches to follow in cooperating.** Others have done likewise. Instead of emphasizing the pattern and instilling respect for God and His Word in the hearts of those who have listened to them, their efforts have produced an attitude of unconcernedness and of disrespect for **God's pattern! There is a pattern that must be followed!** (See 1 Cor. 4:6; James 1:25; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:3; Col. 3:17; Phil. 4:9; 2 Tim. 1:13; John 12:48; 2 John 9-11; James 2:12). Please go back and re-read and study the May and June, 1971 and May, 1972 issues of "THE INSTRUCTOR."

5. THEY CONDEMN THE RIGHTEOUS AND JUSTIFY THE WICKED. Those who are sowing seeds of digression very often will condemn those who are righteous. The righteous are called "antis," "a faction," "the disgruntled," "rule makers," etc. They are misrepresented and maligned. The righteous are accused of "creed-making," "special pleading," "being meddlesome," having a "double standard" and having "a sinister spirit." (Editor Gray used all the terms in discussing what he called "anti-ism.") The motives of the righteous are impugned and their actions unduly criticized. Yet many times attempts are made to justify people who are wicked. Men who have led and are leading many of God's people into digression are held up as "stalwarts" of the faith. Church discipline is rarely, if ever, administered in congregations who have sown and who are sowing the seeds of digression. They strengthen the hands of evil doers. With lies they have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom God did not make sad. By strengthening the hands of the wicked, they are promising him life, that he should not return from his wicked way. (Cf. Jer. 23:14; Ezek. 13:22). They say "Peace, peace; when there is no peace." (Cf. Jer. 6:13-17). The wicked are praised, but the righteous are blam-

ed. The preacher of old said: "He that justifieth the wicked and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." (Prov. 17:15). The Lord said: "I will not justify the wicked." (Exo. 23:7). Please read and carefully consider Isaiah 5:20-24.

6. THEY ARE UNFAIR IN SOME OF THEIR ACTIONS. An unjust and carnal cause may demand carnal and unfair actions. For example, R. W. Gray gave a series of what he called "lectures" on what he termed "Anti-ism" at Alder Springs and later a series at Geraldine, but he (and others) did NOT allow anyone who was present (including this writer) to make an open comment or ask a question. Neither have we been allowed to come to North Broad and publicly discuss our differences with them—**although we challenged them to give us that opportunity! Obviously, they are "afraid" of the light!** Since they cannot justify their practices by the New Testament, they try to ignore, as much as possible, sincere believers who question their position on such matters. **Digression thrives on such. Sometimes "outsiders" are warned about us by those who have sown and who are sowing seeds of digression. A righteous cause demands fair and honest actions!**

7. THEY ARE GUILTY OF PERVERTING SOME OF GOD'S WORD. Such passages as James 1:27 and Gal. 6:10 are used to show church (collectively) obligation. Then the argument is made that the church is not a home and therefore it cannot "care" for the needy. It is then suggested that **another institution is necessary** before the relief work can be accomplished. After perverting Jas. 1:27 and Gal. 6:10 to prove church obligation, they shift the obligation **from the church to another organization and then demand that the church contribute funds to the organization and allow it to have complete oversight of all funds contributed and all work to be done and all personnel to be employed.** For a study of James 1:27 please read THE INSTRUCTOR, Dec., 1971, and for a study of Gal. 6:10 please read THE INSTRUCTOR, Jan. 1972. Editor Gray and others

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have also **perverted** 2 Corinthians 9:13. The claim is made that the expression "all men" means "alien sinners." This is **assumed! It is not proven!** Please re-read the March, 1972 issue of THE INSTRUCTOR for a study of 2 Corinthians 9:13. The editor **perverted** a number of other passages such as 2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Cor. 11:28; Gal. 6:11; 1 Timothy 5:16; Ephesians 5:23-27; Acts 6:1-7; Gal. 6:6 and Matt. 5:44-47 in his articles in the North Broad Bulletin. **A love for the truth and love for souls has demanded and has justified this series of article entitled: "IN DEFENSE OF THE TRUTH" in which some of the errors of men like editor Gray have been exposed.**

8. WHEN THE SEEDS OF DIGRESSION HAVE BEEN SOWN, WE SHOULD EXPECT TO REAP ACCORDINGLY. A harvest of truth, peace, unity, and right living will not result, but a harvest of er-

ror, strife, division and immorality will be produced. Problems in the church over Holy Spirit baptism, speaking in tongues, spiritual gifts, respecting authority, attitudes and clean living have been produced **by seeds of digression.** Attitudes have been developed that are prompting many false doctrines and ungodly actions. Please consider Hosea 8:7 that says: **"For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."** The Israelites reaped according to what they sowed. So will we. **Many have been and are now sowing the wind** (the seeds of digression). **It is inevitable that "they shall reap the whirlwind."** We have already begun reaping some of the harvest of the wind. **The "whirlwind" is nigh upon us.**

Brethren, we plead with you to make haste to be protected from the storm by taking a firm stand upon the solid foundation of truth as revealed in the New Testament of Jesus Christ.

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

There are four things you can appeal to in a boy; His sense of honor, his conscience, his pride, and lastly, his hide.

Many modern "Dads" are more concerned about their golf swing than they are about their off-spring.

Sin cannot be recognized, supervised and legalized because it will victimize, scandalize, jeopardize and otherwise pulverize the world.

Wouldn't life be "rosy" if you could settle your own problems as easily as you can settle the problems of others?

Pure religion is Bread for daily use, not Cake for special occasions.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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