

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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HYPOCRISY

"Let love be without hypocrisy." (Romans 12:9) One of the most despicable of sins is hypocrisy. Yet it is one of the most common. Most sins are committed in secret so that others do not see them. This one is committed deliberately before others intending for its nature to be known only in the secrets of the heart of the guilty.

This word originally referred to playing the part of a character in a play upon the stage. The actor pretended to be someone other than himself. By the time the New Testament was written it had come to apply to pretending, feigning to be what we are not. The word has been brought into our language with this general meaning.

A person may have total unconcern, or may have malice in his heart for another, but, for appearance sake before others, or for some hidden advantage, he may put on a display of love. A member of the church may want others to think that his love is great, so that he pretends love when in reality he may despise a brother. Our love must be genuine and sincere, with no pretentious, oily, sugar-coating.

The Pharisees wanted every one to see how prayerful and how charitable they were. They sounded the trumpet and stood on the street corner to pray in order to attract all eyes. In reality, they were not

humbly seeking God nor showing compassion upon the poor; but were putting on a show to be seen of men. Jesus called them hypocrites. (Matt. 6:2,5). There are still people who want to make a show of religion and want to advertize their benevolence.

These hypocrites could tithe the insignificant little garden mint to give the impression that they absolutely adhered to the law. But to their personal advantage they ignored justice, mercy and faith. These Pharisees were not censured for their strict tithing, but for their failure in the other matters. In so doing they practiced hypocrisy. No Pharisee is condemned for strict adherence to the law. He is condemned for his hypocrisy. A man today will give "liberally" but he has cheated in his business or on the job; he is a hypocrite. A man will "attend church" faithfully, but will flirt with another man's wife and cheat on his own; that's hypocrisy. These people are not condemned for worshipping God and giving liberally, but are condemned for their hypocrisy.

The person who gets gain by dishonest methods is a liar. The man who misrepresents his wares or his circumstances is a liar. **But the hypocrite is a**

(continued on page 3)

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Editorial—

ARE YOU A SAINT?

There is much error taught concerning "sanctification" because many people fail to "give diligence" to learn what constitutes a "saint." The word **saint** appears in the Scriptures about one hundred times. A "saint" is a person who is "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his.**" (THAYER'S LEXICON, page 7). There are many who profess to be saints, but in works they deny that they are saints.

SOME FACTS ABOUT SAINTS

1. TO BE A SAINT ONE MUST BE SANCTIFIED. Paul addressed the first Corinthian letter "**to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints.**" (See 1 Cor. 1:2). In 1 Cor. 6:9-11 Paul points out that the "saints" to whom he wrote had been **fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, effeminate, abusers of themselves with mankind, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers and extortioners, but they were washed, sanctified and justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. They were now **saints!** We learn from Acts 18:8 that ". . . many of the Corinthians hearing, believed, and were baptized." When they heard the gospel, believed the gospel and were baptized, they were "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his.**" Thus they became **saints.**

2. TO BE A SAINT ONE MUST BE SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. Hebrews 13:12 says: "**Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.**" There could not have been nor can there now be sanctification apart from the blood of Jesus. One can not be "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his**" unless he is cleansed by the blood of Christ. To be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ one must have sufficient **faith** in God and in Jesus Christ as the Son of God to **obey** his gospel. (Cf. Romans 3:25; 5:1; 6:1-18; 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Matthew 7:21; Rev. 22:14). It is **then that one becomes a saint!**

3. TO BE A SAINT ONE MUST BE SANCTIFIED BY THE WORD OF GOD. In his prayer to the Father in John 17:17 Jesus said: "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**" We learn from Hebrews 10:7-10 that "...he taketh away the first that he may establish the second. **By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**" There can be no sanctification apart from the word of God—His will, the second testament or covenant. One can not be "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his**" unless he **learns and obeys** the word of God. (Cf. John 6:44-45; Romans 10:13-18; Matthew 7:21; Rev. 22:14; Hebrews 5:8-9; James 1:21-25; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; James 2:12).

4. TO BE A SAINT ONE MUST BE SANCTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. In Romans 15:16 the apostle Paul suggests that the Gentiles **were sanctified by the Holy Spirit.** There can be no sanctification apart from the Holy Spirit. One can not be "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his**" unless he is willing to accept the revelation of the Holy Spirit as written in the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit inspired men (revealed God's word to them) and they spake and wrote it so that we might learn and understand God's will. (Cf. 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 2:9-13; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:2-6; Eph. 5:17). When we obey God's will we are thus "**sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**"

There is nothing miraculous involved in our sanctification today. We simply learn, believe and obey God's word and we are

(Continued on page 3)

STEPHEN'S DEBATE AND SERMON

In Acts, chapter 6, we read of Stephen, "a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost," who engaged in **disputing** with certain ones of the Libertines' synagogue, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those of Cilicia and Asia. (Verse 9). "They were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." (Verse 10). "Then they suborned" to misrepresent Stephen. (Verse 11). "And they **STIRRED UP** the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, and set up false witnesses" to further misrepresent him. (Verse 12-14).

Stephen then defended the truth in the speech recorded in Acts 7, and in conclusion he said, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers; Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it." (Verses 51-53).

Some today no doubt would criticize Stephen's plainness of speech and accuse him of not having the right attitude and not preaching in love. If some lukewarm Christians of today had been in Stephen's audience they would have "felt like crawling under the seat" when he preached directly to the people that they were betrayers and murderers of Christ, and for some it would have been "the last straw" when Stephen said their fathers had persecuted and slain the prophets of God. I tell you brethren, preaching could be no plainer nor more pointed than this language used by Stephen, which caused his audience to be "cut to the heart" so that they "gnashed on him with their teeth," (Verse 54), and to "cast him out of the city" and stone him to death. (Verses 57-58).

If Stephen were living today, I am persuaded that many churches of Christ would not use him for gospel meetings or as their local evangelist, in view of his record. "Why I would have been embarrassed to death," some would say, "If I had invited some of my Jewish friends and relatives to hear the truth, and then Stephen, in the first

(Continued in right column)

and only sermon he preached there, had to get personal and make every body mad." Brother, do you endorse Stephen's debate and sermon? God and Christ did!--**Earl Fly** via THE PLANO PROVOKER

AN INTERESTING QUOTATION

"The early church, following St. Paul's injunctions, was violently opposed to any man wearing headgear in church." (ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, Vol. 8, page 55).

(Continued from page 1)

HYPOCRISY

living lie. There are too many living a lie as they play righteousness, religion, godliness and worship. "The wisdom from above is... without hypocrisy." (James 3:17).

—**Robert C. Welch** in THE RESTORER

(Continued from page 2)

ARE YOU A SAINT?

washed in the blood of Christ and thus we are "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his.**"

5. SAINTS WILL RECEIVE A GLORIOUS INHERITANCE. In Eph. 1:18 reference is made to "**the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.**" In addressing the Ephesian elders Paul said: "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to **give an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**" (Acts 20:32).

Are you a saint? Have YOU been "**set apart for God, to be, as it were, exclusively his?**" Does your **life, your attitude and your actions** indicate that you are a saint? If not, you are not a saint! If you are not a saint, you have no promise of a glorious inheritance among them which are sanctified. We exhort you to become a **true SAINT** today! You will never regret it if you do.

(CRS)

SOMEONE HAS GIVEN A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE

“Many years ago I entered the wonderful temple of God’s Revelation. I entered the portico of Genesis and walked down through the Old Testament art gallery, where the pictures of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David and Daniel hung on the wall. I entered the music room of the Psalms where the Spirit swept the keyboard of nature and brought forth the dirge-like wail of the weeping prophet Jeremiah, to the grand impassioned strains of Isaiah, until it seemed that every reed and harp in God’s organ of nature responded to the tuneful touch of David, the sweet singer of Israel. I entered the chapel of Ecclesiastes where the voice of the Preacher was heard; and passed into the conservatory of Sharon, where the Lily of the Valley’s sweet-scented spices filled and perfumed my life. I entered the business office of Proverbs, and passed into the observatory room of the prophets, where I saw many telescopes of various sizes, some pointing to far-off events, but all concentrated upon the Bright and Morning Star which was soon to rise over the moon-lit hills of Judea for our Salvation. I entered the

audience room of the King of kings, and saw the viewpoint of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I entered Acts of Apostles, where the Holy Spirit was doing his office work in the formation of the infant church. I passed into the correspondence room where sat Paul, Peter, James, Jude, and John penning their epistles. I stepped into the throne of Revelation, where all towered into glittering peaks; I saw the King seated upon the throne in all his glory—and I cried: ‘All hail the power of Jesus’ name, let angels prostrate fall; bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him **Lord** of all.’”

Author Unknown

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting for Albert Hill and the West Hobbs St. elders to set the date for the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE **since** they **agreed** to do so. If their **word** is their “bond,” we will soon receive word that the date has been set—and we’ll tell you.

Sentence Sermons

There are some people who will fall for everything and stand for nothing.

Gossip is like a balloon; it grows bigger with every puff.

If you want to keep your feet on the ground, carry some responsibilities on your shoulders.

A person with a closed mind can get by “nicely” if he keeps his mouth closed.

Fewer marriages would skid, if more who said, “I do” — did.

Common sense and honesty should be more common.

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