

# 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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## ***YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN***

There is no better life than to be just simply a Christian. The wealth and pleasures of this world are not worthy to be compared with the joy and satisfaction and hope available to a Christian. It is an inestimable honor to be privileged to wear the name of Christ. His name is so high and great and honorable that even to suffer in it is a great joy (1 Pet. 4:14-16). Truly, as has been said, a Christian's adversity is more blessed than a sinner's prosperity.

It is not to be denied that there may be pleasure in sin (Heb. 11:25), but such, at best, endures, but for a season. Such transient joys do not provide genuine lasting happiness during such a brief day even when engaged to the fullest. In every individual there is an emptiness, a void that this world and all of its wisdom and pleasure cannot possibly fill. The person who will have happiness and joy in this present world and the bliss of heaven in the world to come must be a Christian. He must be in Christ (Eph. 1:3). To be in Christ is to be in His body, the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

The Bible is the source of information which reveals the how of becoming a Christian. Christianity's key is the

complete surrender of him who would become a Christian to the Christ. The heart must esteem Him as Lord indeed. Any person who is not willing to deny himself and put the Lord first is only playing at the religion of Christ. Those who are willing to submit themselves to Christ will not object to any of His commands, but rather will humbly and diligently obey them in complete and living trust.

It was Jesus Christ who said, "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . .**" (Mark 16:16). It was Jesus who authorized Peter to say, "**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .**" (Acts 2:38). Paul showed how one gets into Christ. "**For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ** (Gal. 3:27). A Christian is one who has been forgiven of sin by the authority (name) of Christ. He shows his surrender by his obedience to the Lord. He is now to walk in newness of life. His old man of sin has been put away (Romans 6:3-4).

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### Editorial . . .

#### **"I KNOW . . ."**

Often times a person will say "I know . . ." He may be speaking about what he thinks is the truth as revealed in the Scriptures. Or, he may be telling something about some other person or something else. He may emphatically say, "I know what I'm talking about."

The fact that a person prefaces something that he says with "I know" does **not** necessarily mean that what he says is true.

A person may say "I know not" or "I do not know" a certain thing. However, the fact that a person may say "I know not" or "I do not know" does not necessarily mean that he really does not know.

A long time ago, Cain the first man every born, "**rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.**" When the Lord asked Cain, "**Where is Abel thy brother?**", Cain replied, "I KNOW NOT: **Am I my brother's keeper?**" (See Gen. 4:1-15). Although Cain declared, "I know not," the truth is this: **Cain was lying! He did know!**

In John 9 Jesus miraculously restored sight to a man who had been born blind. Some of the Pharisees did not believe the testimony of the blind man

whose eyes were opened. They then asked his parents, "**Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? How doth he now see? His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; But by what means he now seeth, WE KNOW NOT; or who hath opened his eyes, WE KNOW NOT: he is of age; ask him; he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that He was Christ, he should be cast out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.**" Although his parents declared, "WE KNOW NOT" does **not** prove that they did **not** know. They did not say, "WE KNOW NOT . . ." because they did **not** KNOW, but because they feared the Jews!

Some people today may say "I know not" or "we know not" in reply to a question asked them. However, they may not be telling the truth. Cain did **not** tell the truth when he said "I know not." Neither did the parents of the blind man whose sight was restored tell the truth when they said "we know not."

Some people will insist that they know that a certain thing is true, but such may not be the case. In I Kings 13 we learn that "a man of God" from Judah went to Bethel "by the word of the Lord" and cried against the false system of worship instituted by Jerboam, King of the ten tribes of Israel. When the King invited the man of God to come to his home and refresh himself and receive a reward he refused. The man of God said to the King, "**If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so was it charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, Eat no bread, nor drink water; nor turn again by the same way that**

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## “I KNOW . . .”

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thou camest.” However, while returning to Judah, when an old prophet who dwelt in Bethel said to the man of God, **“I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, bring him back with thee into thine house, that he may eat bread and drink water,”** the man of God obviously believed him. **“But he lied unto him.”** (I Kings 13:18<sub>b</sub>) The fact the old prophet said that an angel spake to him by the word of the Lord did **not** mean that what he said was the truth.

When spreading rumors designed to hurt someone’s influence and/or the cause of Christ, someone may say, **“I know it’s so”** or **“It came straight”** or **“It is common knowledge in the area where he lives”** or **“The person who told me wouldn’t lie about it,”** etc. NONE of these statements **prove** that the rumor is true.

If I believe a **falsehood** and pass it along as if it were true, **I am deceived and I am helping to deceive others!** The fact that I am **blind** does not remove from me the consequences of being blind. Jesus said: “. . . **If the blind lead the blind, BOTH shall fall into the ditch.**” (Matthew 15:14).

Lying about any person or any thing is a violation of God’s law and is thus sinful! (See Col. 3:9; Eph. 4:25; Rev. 21:8, 27; 22:15).

God will not hold us guiltless if we are a partaker of other men’s sins by supporting or encouraging them in the spreading of “rumors” designed to injure one’s reputation or destroy one’s influence for good.

Make sure when you say **“I know . . .”** that you **really KNOW!** Be cautious about **believing** and/or **repeating** things others may say that are designed to hurt the influence of a godly person or injure the cause of Christ in some other way. Remember Jesus said: **“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”** (Lk. 6:31). This applies to everyone, including preachers!

(CRS)

## “EXCEPT YE BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN”

Human flesh is very sensitive. It is easily affected by temperature. The skin also burns and scars quickly when touched by a hot object. As many of us have experienced, that scarred area becomes very dull of feeling. Sin is the same way.

While we are young our hearts are pure and clean. Little children have no sin. But as we grow older we grow smarter. We come to learn of right and wrong. And we begin to sin. The first time our conscience is burned deeply. The pain is unbearable, but we quickly nurse our emotional wounds. Unfortunately a scar is left. That scar makes the pain of each and every wound after the first easier to bear.

Christians can rid themselves of those nasty and unsightly scars on the heart. They can leave their past (Phil. 4:13-14) full of sin and begin a new life. Christ can remove the scars and heal the wounds for without Him we are like the nail-filled board. You can pull out the nails, but the holes are still there. Christ can fill the holes. Christ can forgive our sins.

Let us not allow ourselves to grow hard of heart. But rather should we be like babes, sensitive to all around us. Repentant and forgiving, zealous to please and ashamed when we do wrong. We must be soft-hearted, having compassion on our fellow man because except we be as children, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:3).

—Michael Duke in LIBERTY ROAD LIGHTHOUSE, July 20, 1979

JESUS SAID: “. . . Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me” (Matthew 18:3-5).

## TRUTH

We have substitutes for rubber,  
We have substitutes for silk,  
And there are some people wearing,  
Clothing made from coal or milk.  
But there's not a man or woman,  
Not in all the earth a youth,  
Who will ever, ever, ever,  
Find a substitute for truth.

We have substitutes for leather,  
And for brick and stone and wood,  
Some are worse and some are better,  
And some are just about as good.

But from Ireland to Australia,  
And from Dublin to Duluth,  
There will never, never, never,  
Be a substitute for truth!

— *Eastland News*

## YOU SHOULD BE A CHRISTIAN

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In this life there is the joy of hope for the life to come. Beyond death there is a wonderful life, that awaits the faithful child of God. The assurance found in the word of God makes all earthly trials and hardships and carnal pleasures seem so transparent and trivial. When one has a proper understanding of life and death there can be found genuine joy in this life and an unshakeable confidence in death and the hereafter.

— C. A. BURCHAM in  
LIBERTY ROAD LIGHTHOUSE  
October 23, 1981

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

If your religion does not make you a Christian, it is either wrong or not strong.

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We should believe the gospel and let it teach us how to behave.

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A word of wisdom: Make friends before you need them.

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Faith is produced by hearing and is seen by action.

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To multiply joy you must share it.

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