

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

Volume 2

OCTOBER, 1965

Number 10

LOSING THE SAVED

Many sermons have been preached and much has been written on saving the lost. Certainly we should all be interested in saving the lost. However, very little has been preached and written on losing the saved. We have debated and PROVED that it is possible for the saved to be lost, but we have not gone into the causes and prevention of losing the saved to very much extent. Let us note first:

SOME OF THE WAYS THE SAVED ARE LOST.

1. BY A SHIPWRECK OF THEIR FAITH. (1 Tim. 1:19); or as another passage speaks of overthrowing the faith of some. (2 Timothy 2:18).

2. BY THEIR LOVE GROWING COLD. (Matt. 24:12). And leaving one's first love. (Rev. 2:4).

3. BY A LOVE FOR THE WORLD. As Demas. (2 Tim. 4:10). John warns that we "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 Jno. 2:15); and James also warns us about the same. (Jas. 4:4).

WHY ARE THE SAVED LOST?

1. BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT PROPERLY FED on the sincere milk of the word. (1 Pet. 2:1-2). Hence, they never developed into strong full-grown members of the body. Proper food is required for strength. We should see that newborn babes in Christ have good Bibles, and that they are assisted in the study of the Word.

2. BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF EX-

ERCISE. It is important that one have exercise as well as food. Give the new members something to do as soon as possible, and also we should help them to exercise their senses to discern good and evil. (Heb. 5:14).

3. SOMETIMES NEW MEMBERS ARE NOT MADE TO FEEL THAT THEY ARE REALLY PART OF THE CONGREGATION. Sometimes certain groups associate together, and form a circle so tight that others can never break into their warm friendship and association. Hence, they tend to become discouraged, and lose interest.

4. SOMETIMES THE OLDER MEMBERS SAY AND DO THINGS THAT CAUSE THE WEAK TO STUMBLE. We should be very careful that we do not cause the weak to stumble (1 Cor. 8:12-13).

5. MARRYING OUT OF THE CHURCH. This fact is undeniable. The church is losing many every year in this way. In one place where I held a meeting, two girls married Catholic boys and both quit the church. (They really quit the Lord—CRS). Furthermore, when a member marries one who is not a member, it is impossible to have the unity that ought to exist. The husband and wife cannot worship together in the home, or in public worship (that is Scripturally). Marriage counselors warn that for a marriage to have a fair chance of being happy and successful

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ that meets at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Ala. 35950.

Editorial . . .

" . . . AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED . . ."

All the promises of Christ are sure. Some of them are conditional and some are unconditional. Irrespective of what happens, the unconditional promises will be kept. Not one thing will fail. Every conditional promise will also be kept IF the conditions are met.

In Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Here we see that salvation is promised! However, it is not promised unconditionally. If it were, there would be universal salvation and no one would be lost. The promise of salvation is conditional. One must believe the gospel and be baptized if he is to be a recipient of salvation!

In Matthew 6:33 we read where Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and righteousness AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU." The context of this passage shows that the basic essentials of life such as food, drink, and clothing are incorporated in the expression "ALL THESE THINGS." These things are promised conditionally. The condition is stipulated in the first part of the verse. We must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" IF we are to be assured of receiving the basic essentials of life.

Jesus did not say that we will receive "ALL THESE THINGS" if we are merely "religious". He says we must "seek first the Kingdom of God and His right-

eousness." We must not allow anything to come before God and His righteousness in our hearts and lives. We must even "deny" ourselves in order to follow the Master. (See Luke 9:23; Titus 2:11-12).

Sinners may receive an abundance of this world's goods. However, it is not because God has promised him such. It is not good with the wicked although he may prosper for a while on this earth materially.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has not promised us a life free from hardships. He has not promised us material riches but we have the blessed assurance that we will have the basic essentials to sustain physical life here for a while IF we "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness!" Ultimately we will receive eternal life in the world to come by virtue of the proper relationship with and the proper concern for our Father which is in heaven!

In Psalms 37:25, the Psalmist said, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." God certainly makes provisions for his children!

Do YOU "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness"? If not, you have NO PROMISE of food and clothing in this life NOR eternal life in the world to come!
(CRS)

DID YOU KNOW?

Friends, did you know that Jesus Christ said:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me." (Matt. 10:34-38).

The Conversion of Simon

When Philip went down to Samaria he found a sorcerer, Simon by name, who had bewitched the people for a long time with his sorcery. He succeeded in persuading the people that he was "some great one" and that he "had the power of God." But since He was nothing but a trickster and a faker, he readily saw that Phillip's miracles were genuine and, along with the Samaritans, he believed and was baptized.

Now, the question arises, was the conversion of Simon genuine and did he become a saved man, a child of God? Those who teach that it is impossible for a child of God to "fall from grace" declare that Simon was never truly converted and was not a child of God. This is an effort to defend a false doctrine in spite of the fact that this is a clear-cut example of a Christian's falling into condemnation. If this doctrine had never arisen, then the conversion of Simon would not have been called in question. But let us look at the divine record.

Luke declares, "But when they (Samaritans) believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized both men and women." (Acts 8:12). No one has ever questioned the conversion of the Samaritans or that they became children of God. But Luke further declares: "Then Simon himself believed ALSO and when he was baptized . . ." (Acts 8:13). Their key word in this passage is "also." "Simon himself believed also." The simple meaning is, Simon believed as the Samaritans believed. He believed WHAT they believed. His faith was like their faith and as genuine as their faith. His conversion was like their conversion. He obeyed the gospel just as the Samaritans obeyed the gospel. He "believed and was baptized," just as the Samaritans "believed and were baptized." Now, was Simon a saved man? Did he become

(Continued in next column)

BUILDING CHARACTER

O, did you know the little thoughts
That flutter through your mind
Are always either good and pure
Or selfish and unkind?
And did you know that what you think
And what you say today
Will make you what you are to be
Because you grow that way?
Your life is built just like a house
The things you think and do
Are like the brick the builders use,
For they are building you.
The brick that crumble none would want
To build into a wall,
Because when winds begin to blow
The house would quickly fall.
And so to build your character
And build it strong and sure,
Use pleasant words, do kindly deeds
And let your thoughts be pure.

—Selected via "Gospel Digest"

(Continued from page 1)

LOSING THE SAVED

that the couple should be united in their religion.

Let us realize that the church has an obligation to keep the saved, saved — as well as seeking and saving the lost.

—A. G. Hobbs via "Gospel Digest."

If we do not have your ZIP CODE), please send it to us AT ONCE!

(continued from left column)

THE CONVERSION OF SIMON Cont'd
a child of God?

If Simon was not a saved man, then Jesus did not keep His promise, for in Mk. 16:16, Jesus has said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." If Simon were not saved, then it was not Simon's fault, for he did exactly what the Lord commanded him to do. Also, if Simon was not saved, then neither were the Samaritans, for Simon did exactly what they did.

The truth of the matter is, Simon obeyed the gospel. (Rom. 1:16). He "believed and was baptized." Jesus declares that those who thus do, are saved. (Mk. 16:16).

—Lindsay A. Allen in "The Scottsboro Reminder".

"Let Not The Church Be Charged"

In this chapter (1 Timothy 5:16) Paul is teaching that children who are able to assist their parents when their parents are in need of assistance, or even if they are just relatives, not so closely related as fathers and mothers, the church should not be burdened when relatives are able to care for the matter. . . . The church should not be charged with many things by men today which the Lord never intended should be a part of the work of the church. Take, for example, the question of recreation. If there be such a question, it should be solved in the homes and not the church. The church is no more in the recreation business than it is of providing for those whose people can assist them. That a certain amount of what we call recreation is necessary for the well-being of us all goes without question. But such matters do not belong in the realm of religion. Christian parents should see to matters of this kind and not depend on the church for such things. The church that goes into such business will be lost to the Lord.

—Cleon Lyles via the
"Gospel Digest"

THE HUTTO-JOHNSON DEBATE

A four-nights discussion is scheduled to be conducted December 14-17, 1965 at 7:00 P.M. Hiram Hutto of Gainesville, Fla., and Albert Johnson of Crossville, Ala., will be the disputants. Mr. Hutto is a Christian and Mr. Johnson is a Baptist. The subjects discussed will be "Water Baptism" and "Holy Spirit Baptism". The public is invited to attend this debate which is to be conducted in the church building at 1003 Baltimore Ave., in Albertville.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

EACH LORD'S DAY

Bible Classes 10:00 a.m.
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Worship 6:00 p.m.

EACH WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

RADIO PROGRAM:

Monday thru Friday at 11:15 a.m.
over WBSA, 1300 on the dial.

SPEAKER: Carrol R. Sutton

Sentence Sermons

The man who does as he pleases, seldom pleases the Lord.

The future is "purchased" by the present.

Always tell the truth and you do not have to remember what you say.

A sound argument must have more than "sound" in it.

A "religion" that is not worth exporting, is not worth keeping at home.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1003 Baltimore Ave.
Albertville, Ala. 35950

Entered as second-class matter at
Albertville, Alabama