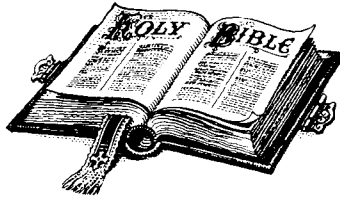


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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SALVATION IS UNLIMITED, BUT CONDITIONAL

John wrote, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him who is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17). Many of the creeds of men limit, in scope, the salvation from sin which Christ offers through the gospel. This erroneous position is assumed because of a misunderstanding of the nature of man and the nature of God's dealings with man. In spite of what the creeds say, however, the Lord makes the same offer to all without any respect of persons. God's love for man manifested at Calvary included the whole world — "he tasted death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9). His death was not only for the people who live under the New Testament, but it was "for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament." (Hebrews 9:15). This is why John could write "whosoever" in our text. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). All were in sin, but **all** by the Lord are invited to come to Him. Anyone who wants to be saved can be. The Lord is not in the business of saving some while refusing to save others the same way.

As surely as salvation is offered to all in the great commission, (Mark 16; Matthew 28), it is offered conditionally. As I John wrote the will of Christ in Revelation 22, he included, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Revelation 22:14). The blessed city of God is

entered **when** the gospel of Jesus Christ is obeyed. The "doing" of His commandments to enter the city makes the entering **conditional!** Men constantly tell us there is not anything we can do "to take the water of life", but the Lord says there is something that must be done, Men tell us it was the Lord's doing and dying that saves us from sin — that there is not anything we can do. His death — His blood — makes possible our salvation, but its benefits are not received and enjoyed by man until man appropriates the benefits of Jesus' death in gospel obedience. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21). "**He that doeth**" is **conditional!** . . . Earl Robertson in PAUSE — PONDER — PROFIT, 3/80



THE BIBLE SAYS:

**"Awake thou that sleepest
. . . (Eph. 5:14)**

AND:

**"... the night is far spent . . .
the day is at hand . . ." (Rom.
13:12).**

THE INSTRUCTOR

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EDITOR

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Editorial . . .

DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH? (Concluded)

In our past articles on this subject, our appeal has been to God's Word to show that God is concerned about what we wear. We have shown that we should wear the proper kind of clothes. Paul specifically states that "**women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety**" in 1 Tim. 2:9. We suggested that clothes which are "**lascivious**" or "**wanton**" are condemned in Gal. 5:19-21 under "**lasciviousness**" as a work of the flesh. It was also pointed out that clothes which serve to break down and destroy the **distinction** between men and women should not be worn. Neither should clothes be worn that would reflect and encourage the efforts and influence of the Women's Liberation Movement nor the **unisex movement**.

OBJECTIONS CONSIDERED

When principles of truth are set forth which should govern us in what we wear, instead of conforming to those principles, many people (and even some who profess godliness) will set those principles aside and offer objections to them. Let us consider some of the objections that are made.

I. "YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT TO WEAR."

REPLY:

1. This objection indicates the wrong attitude toward God, His word, His church and the people of the world. Surely the Christian **desires to know God's will** concerning dress and **wants**

to please Him. Furthermore, the Christian **wants** to be the proper **example** to other Christians and also to have a good influence on the people of the world. Please read Matthew 5:6; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thess. 2:13; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Timothy 4:12 and Romans 14:16-17.

2. **God does have the right to tell us** what to wear. If God's will is set forth, we must believe and obey it.

3. Others can make the same objection about anything they are not willing to accept. Of course, it is not valid!

4. The truth is that I not only have the right to tell you (and others) principles of truth about dress, but I have an **obligation** to do so. **You** (and others) will give account to God as to your attitude toward it and how you deal with it.

II. "SHORTS AND OTHER BRIEF ATTIRE ARE MUCH COOLER. YOU KNOW IT GETS SO HOT."

REPLY:

1. Comfort does **not** make immodest, indecent, lascivious clothing Scriptural. Neither does convenience justify wrong. **Question:** Would going nude be justified if it were more comfortable and more convenient to do so? Would it?

2. The truth is that proper clothing serves to protect us from the sun (as well as cold) and it makes us more comfortable. It also protects us from scratches, burns and other injuries in doors as well as out of doors!

III. "I CAN'T HELP IT IF OTHERS HAVE EVIL THOUGHTS ABOUT ME. THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM, NOT MINE."

REPLY:

1. Every person who lusts or has other evil thoughts does have a problem and will be responsible for such. Please read Matthew 5:28; Matthew 15:15-18; Romans 14:12 and Romans 2:6.

2. However, if you dress in such a way as to produce or tend to produce lewd or lustful thoughts or emotions, **you are guilty** of the sin of lasciviousness and you must give account to God for such. It is a work of the flesh! (See Gal. 5:19-21).

3. Surely Bathsheba was not entirely without blame when she indiscreetly bathed in the view of David. Was she?

4. Would a woman professing godliness be so thoughtless or careless about how others view her? Surely not!

5. We must not be a stumbling block to others. See Rom. 14:13 and 1 Cor. 8:9.

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DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH?

IV. “NO ONE PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO IT. NO ONE EVEN NOTICES MY BRIEF ATTIRE.”

REPLY:

1. If this is really true, it indicates how seared a lot of consciences have become. That would be pathetic!

2. Whether or not anyone pays any attention to it certainly does not prove it is right. Compare cursing, drinking, gambling and nudity.

3. **God notices it!** Not even a sparrow falls to the ground unnoticed!

V. “HOW LONG IS LONG AND HOW SHORT IS SHORT? WHO IS TO SAY WHAT IS IMMODEST?”

REPLY:

1. Obviously this is intended to suggest that no one knows what is right and what is wrong in the matter of dress, but this is not the case. We **can** know God’s will about how we should dress!

2. Although some clothing may be on the border line, there is a safe course we can follow in our dress.

VI. “WOMEN AREN’T WEARING MEN’S CLOTHES WHEN THEY WEAR TROUSERS, JEANS AND PANT-SUITS. THESE CLOTHES ARE MADE FOR WOMEN.”

REPLY:

1. Is the objector implying that it would be wrong **if** women wore trousers, pants and jeans which are made for men?

2. Most women who wear trousers, jeans and pant-suits **will also wear jeans which are made for men!** Why would they do so if it is wrong? Why not simply wear jeans made for women? NOTE: If it is not wrong, why make the argument that women aren’t wearing men’s clothes when they wear pants, trousers and jeans? Why not just say that women have the right to wear men’s clothes?

3. **Question:** Would it be right for men to wear dresses, skirts and blouses? Why not? Suppose a man wears dresses, skirts and blouses that are made for men? Would that make it right? Would those dresses and skirts not be women’s clothes? NOTE: Don’t kid yourself. There are some dresses and skirts being made for men.

VII. “A MAN WOULDNT’ BE CAUGHT DEAD IN A PANT-SUIT.”

REPLY:

1. This argument is supposed to prove that

pant-suits are not masculine clothes. Since most women wear jeans, what about them? Are they masculine clothes?

2. Suppose there is a skirt or a dress made for men that a woman “would not be caught dead in.” Would that prove that dresses and skirts are not feminine-type clothes? Neither does the above argument prove that “pant-suits” are not masculine type clothes!

3. Would a dress or skirt with a zipper in the front (instead of one the side) prove that such were not feminine type clothes?

VIII. “TAKE A CONCORDANCE AND OBSERVE HOW MANY TIMES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT MEN WORE SKIRTS. IF MEN COULD WEAR SKIRTS, SURELY IT IS ALRIGHT FOR WOMEN TO WEAR PANTS.”

REPLY:

1. If this proves anything, it looks like to me that it would prove that **men** have a Scriptural right to wear **skirts and dresses!** Do you believe they do?

2. A study of the passages under “**skirts**” does **not** prove that men in Old Testament times wore **skirts** as women wear them today! Neither does it prove that men wore women’s garments or vice versa!

3. Remember all these Old Testament passages under “**skirts**” were in force during the time that God forbade a man “putting on a woman’s garment” and a woman “wearing that which pertaineth to a man.” (See Dt. 22:5).

4. A person is either careless or hard-pressed to justify women wearing pants who would make the above argument!

IX. “IT IS FASHIONABLE AND IN STYLE.”

REPLY:

1. Neither fashion nor style should be the standard to determine how one should dress. The principles of decency, modesty, appropriateness, etc. should guide us. In other words, **God’s truth** should be our standard!

2. Suppose it were fashionable and stylish to smoke? To dance? To curse? To gamble? To go in the nude? etc.

X. “EVERYBODY IS DRESSING LIKE THAT. I WOULD LOOK ODD IF I DRESSED DIFFERENTLY.”

REPLY:

1. It is the devil’s lie to say that everybody is dressing like that. There are some mature, God-fearing women (and men) who do **not** dress like the world.

(Continued on page 4)

LEADERSHIP

There are two kinds of leadership. The most popular is that which offers an easy to follow course. One that is not too much different from that of society. Different enough from the norm of society to give a feeling of self-satisfaction. "I am not like others." Yet, not different enough to antagonize or alienate the ungodly.

The other is that which follows (as much as humanly possible) God's straight and narrow way. This course often puts one in opposition to that which is popular. It makes one appear at times (to the semi-converted and ungodly) to be fanatical. "Paul, thou art beside thyself." (Acts 26:24).

Yet, make no mistake! One course leads to heaven. The other eventually leads the worldly Christian back to that world he thought he had left behind.

— R. C. SMART, JR.

(Continued from page 3)

DRESS — IS IT BY FAITH?

2. Yes, it might look odd to some people, but how would you look to God? How would you look to mature Christians?

3. We are to be different from the world. Read 1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1-2; John 15:19; James 1:27 and 4:4. (CRS)

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS at the EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST, December 3-5, 1982. The time will be 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at our regular schedule on the Lord's Day. **J. F. Dancer** of Russellville, Alabama will do the preaching! WE URGE YOU TO COME.

Sentence Sermons

When you brood over your troubles, you hatch despair.

Too many people speak twice before they think.

Some people swallow a bushel of error because it contains a grain of truth.

It is alright to have your own way provided you have accepted God's way as your own.

Truth and righteousness may lose a battle but they will win the war.

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