

# 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 29

OCTOBER, 1992

Number 10

## "STAND THEREFORE, . . ."

In Ephesians 6:13-14 Paul exhorted Christians, saying: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, . . ." A number of times in the New Testament Christians are exhorted and encouraged to **stand!**

In order for us to be able to **stand** we must determined to **stand** and make preparation to **stand**.

### STAND IN WHAT?

In what should we stand? According to 1 Peter 5:12 we should stand in God's grace! It says: "...exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand." We learn from 1 Cor. 15:1 that we are to stand in the gospel! It says: "...I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand." NOTE: When we stand in the gospel we ARE standing in the grace of God!

### HOW SHOULD WE STAND?

1. WE SHOULD STAND FAST!  
The following verses clearly state that Christians should stand fast.

(1) 1 Cor. 16:13 — "... Stand fast in the faith. . ."

(2) Gal. 5:1 — "Stand fast therefore in the liberty

wherewith Christ hath made us free, . . ."

(3) Phil. 1:27 — "... That ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

(4) Phil. 4:1 — "... So stand fast in the Lord, . . ."

From these passages we learn that we are to **stand fast** in the **faith**, the **liberty** wherewith Christ has made us free, in **one spirit** and in the **Lord!** To **stand fast** suggests that we should **not** turn aside from.

2. WE SHOULD STAND PERFECT AND COMPLETE!  
Paul prayed for the saints at Colosse that they would "**stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**" (See Col. 4:12). We should grow and develop into well-rounded, spiritually mature adults. In order to become such we must "**live by every word that proceedeth of the mouth of God.**" (See Matt. 4:4).

### AGAINST WHAT?

What should we stand against? In Eph. 6:11 Paul said: "**Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.**" Satan has various schemes or devices to cause us to sin. We must stand against them! We must oppose sin and error as it appears in any form.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

CARROL R. SUTTON  
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

### *Editorial . . .*

## OUR PLEA (No. 1)

The purpose and plea of Christians are misunderstood by many people. As we teach the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ it is **not** our purpose to offend nor to drive people away but our aim or goal is to instruct people in the way of the Lord and to persuade men and women to **obey** the gospel of Jesus Christ. (See Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28: 19-20; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 9:16; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:6-10 and 2 Cor. 5:10-11).

We are **not** trying to encourage anyone to join **any human church**, but we are encouraging everyone to become members of the body of Christ (which is the church) by **obeying** the gospel! (See Acts 2:36-42; 2:47).

We are **not** trying to encourage anyone to become anything spiritually or "religiously" except Christians! (See Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16).

It is **not** our purpose to claim all "good moral" people. However, we emphasize the fact that moral "goodness" by itself will **not** save! It was necessary that Christ die that we might have spiritual life and be saved eternally. (See Heb. 9:22; 10:4; 2:9; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 9:28; 10:12). In order for men to be saved they must come to a knowledge of the truth. (See 1 Tim. 2:3-6; John 8:32; 1 Pet. 1:22-23). Since salvation is "by

grace through faith" one cannot be saved by simply being "morally good." **Obedience** to the Lord is absolutely essential to salvation! (See Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:22; Rev. 22:14).

### **WHAT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST?**

In order for you to understand our **plea** it is necessary that you understand what the body of Christ is.

The body of Christ is **not a human denomination!** In fact, there is **no** modern denomination mentioned specifically by name in the Scriptures! The body of Christ is the **church** you read about in the New Testament! (See Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:20-23; Eph. 4:12).

The church was established by Jesus Christ through the medium of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost as revealed in Acts 2. We learn from Eph. 5:25 that Christ died (i.e., "gave himself") for the church. It was purchased with His blood (See Acts 20:28). Christ is the head of the church and He is its Saviour! (See Eph. 5:23). The church is a body of baptized believers, who have been called out of the world, in whom the Holy Spirit dwells, and over which Christ is the supreme head. All true believers accept the New Testament of Jesus Christ and nothing but the New Testament as the complete standard of authority in religious matters today. It is an all-sufficient rule of faith and practice and **all human creeds** are abominable to God. In Jesus Christ there is salvation for the lost, refuge for the wayward and the weary, and eternal life for those who die infellowship with Him. Faithful congregations of Christians have no creed book except the Bible, no Captain but the Christ, no name but that which is divinely authorized, no message but the gospel, and no purpose but to save. They contend for unity in Christ (see John 17; 1 Cor. 1:10-13), divine authority in worship (see John 4:24; Phil. 4:4), and complete purity in life (see Titus 2:11-12).

*(Continued on page 3)*

# OUR PLEA

*(Continued from page 2)*

Members of the body of Christ are neither Catholic, Jewish nor Protestant but simply Christians as taught in the New Testament! They earnestly endeavor to speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent. (Cf. 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 John 9-11; 1 Thess. 5:21).

Let us now consider **the plea of Christians.**

## BACK TO THE BIBLE

**I. CHRISTIANS ARE PLEADING FOR ALL MEN TO GO BACK TO THE SCRIPTURES!** There are a number of reasons why we are making this plea. Here are some of them.

**A. The Scriptures are inspired of God!** There who gave us the Scriptures did so because God was speaking through them. Read carefully Peter 1:19-21; 2 Sam. 23:2; Psa. 68:11; Isaiah 34:16; John 14:25-26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-16 and 2 Tim. 3:15-17.

**B. The Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures is right!** Psalms 33:4 declares: "**For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth.**" Also see Psalms 19:8.

**C. The Word of God is sure!** The word of men may or may not be sure but **God's word is always sure.** See Psalms 19:7; 93:5; and 111:7.

**D. The Word of God is pure!** Purity should be of paramount concern to all of us. The purity of God's Word is emphasized in Psalms 12:6; 19:8; 119:140 and Prov. 30:5-6.

**E. The Word of God is perfect!** Improvement cannot be made on that which is perfect. It needs no alterations, subtractions, additions or substitutions. Study 2 Sam. 23:2; Psalms 19:7; James 1:25 and 2:12.

**F. The Word of God gives understanding!** To follow God's Will we must understand it. The following Scriptures indicate that we can receive understanding from God's Word; Psa. 119:104, 130; Eph. 3:3-4 & 2 Tim. 2:7.

**G. The Truth as revealed in the Scriptures can make us free!** See John 8:31-32; 1 Tim. 2:3-4; Hosea 4:6 and Matt. 22:29.

**H. The Scriptures are able to make one wise unto salvation!** See Timothy 3:15.

**I. The Word of God begets!** See James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 Cor. 4:15.

**J. The Word of God cleanses!** In John 15:3 Jesus told His disciples: "**Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**"

**K. The Word of God gives faith!** Study carefully Romans 10:8-18.

**L. The Truth purifies!** A Study of 1 Peter 1:22-25 and Acts 15:7-9 reveals that one must hear, believe and obey the truth in order to have his heart and soul purified.

**M. The Word of God convicts and draws men to Christ!** Without the Word of God men cannot be convicted and drawn to Christ. See John 12:32; 6:44-45; Acts 2:37-41; 24:25 & 26:26-28.

**N. The Truth sanctifies!** A consideration of John 17:17 and Hebrews 10:10 will show that truth is essential to sanctification.

**O. The Word of God saves!** Among the passages which teach that God's Word saves are Romans 1:16; James 1:21 and 1 Tim. 4:16.

**P. The Word of God's grace gives an inheritance!** 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 you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.**" (Acts 20:32).

**Q. Man is to live by the Word of God!** In Matthew 4:4 Jesus declared: "**It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**"

**R. God's Word will judge us in the last day!** When we stand before the judge of all the earth in the last

*(Continued on page 4)*

## OUR PLEA

(Continued from page 3)

day His Word, the gospel, the law of liberty will be the standard by which we will be judge. (See John 12:48; Rom. 2:16; James 2:12; Rev. 20:11-15).

No human creed can direct our steps! No human creed can produce saving faith in our hearts! No human creed can lead us from earth to heaven! However, human creeds can and do soothe consciences and feed pride and egotism! They give a false sense of security and produce false hope! They cause confusion, strife and carnality! They produce divisions!

We are pleading with **all** men everywhere to lay aside **all** human doctrines and commandments of men and **go back to the Bible for guidance in how to think, speak and act!**

(To be continued) (CRS)

A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS  
WILL BE CONDUCTED IN EAST  
ALBERTVILLE October 25-30, 1992  
with Donnie Radar preaching.

HEAR THE GOSPEL over WBSA, 1300 on AM dial, Monday through Saturday at 11:15 AM and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m.

## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

“Inconsistency is the only thing in which men are consistent.” — Horace Smith

\* \* \* \* \*

“Common sense is in spite of, not the result of, education.” — Victor Hugo

\* \* \* \* \*

Often the test of courage is not to die, but to live.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since God is our Father, we should be willing to act like His children.

\* \* \* \* \*

One minute of keeping your mouth shut may be worth an hour's explanation.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**4777 U.S. Highway 431**  
**Albertville, AL 35950**

Second class postage

## “STAND THEREFORE, . . .”

(Continued from page 1)

### BY WHAT?

Since Christians are to **stand fast** and “**complete in the Lord**” by what should we stand? We are to **stand by faith!** In writing to saints the inspired apostle Paul declared: “. . . **For by faith ye stand.**” (2 Cor. 1:24). They were able to **stand** because they abounded in faith! (cf. 2 Cor. 8:7). It is by our Lord Jesus Christ that “**we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**” (Cf. Rom. 5:2). Our faith should NOT stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God! (See 1 Cor. 2:5).

Are YOU standing in the **true grace of God**? Are YOU standing **fast** in the **faith**? In the **liberty** wherewith Christ has made us free? In **one spirit**? In the **Lord**? Are YOU standing **against** the schemes of the devil? Are YOU standing **BY FAITH**?

(CRS)