

# 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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## 'THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST'

The theory of premillennialism associates 1 Thessalonians 4:16 & Revelation 20:5 and then concludes a first resurrection (of the righteous) and a second resurrection (of the wicked) with a thousand years intervening during which Christ is to reign on earth on David's throne.

The **contrast** in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is not between two resurrections nor the righteous and the wicked, but between the "dead in Christ" and those "alive in Christ" at His coming. This is the contrast in both the text and the context. Why pervert it or add more to it?

The Thessalonians thought the second coming of Christ was imminent and were greatly disturbed about their "dead in Christ" who would not be "alive and remain" at His coming. Concerning this Paul says, "I would not have you ignorant," and proceeds to show that those who are "alive and remain.....shall not prevent them which are asleep." The word "prevent" as used in the Scriptures means "precede, anticipate; go before." (Compare: Psa. 119:147; Matt. 17:25; 2 Sam. 22:6, 19; Job 30:27.) The meaning in 1 Thessalonians 4:16 is that

those alive when Jesus comes will not be caught up to meet the Lord before "the dead in Christ." Evidently, they thought that those alive at the coming of Christ would have advantages over those in the grave, and this view was increasing the sorrow of those who lost loved ones. Thus the apostle shows that those who are "alive and remain" will have no advantage over the dead for "the dead in Christ shall rise first." Then both will be caught up together to meet the Lord. First, the dead in Christ shall be raised. Second, those that are "alive and remain shall be caught up together with them (the dead in Christ) in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Whatever may be the meaning of Revelation 20:1-6, it cannot be used to prove a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth between two literal resurrections. According to Revelation 20:4 the only ones involved in the thousand-year reign with Christ are "the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus." This involves the **souls**, not bodies, of a few martyred individuals. This does not include all the righteous—not

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## Editorial . . . . .

### In Defense of The Truth

(NUMBER 20)

Christians, as well as many sinners, recognize the fact that division existed among God's people in the first century and that it exists today. **It was sinful then, and it is sinful now. It was a work of the flesh then, (See Gal. 5:19-21), and It is a world of the flesh now. It evidenced carnality then, (See 1 Cor. 3:3), and it evidences carnality now. Satan was pleased then when division existed, and he is pleased now when division exists.** When and where division exists, the "UNITY" for which Christ prayed does not exist. (See John 17:20-23). When brethren pull in opposite directions, time, money and efforts are wasted, hearts are broken, fellowship is severed, and souls are in danger of being lost eternally. All who are truly concerned about God's will being carried out will deplore division and will earnestly desire and work for "UNITY". Of course, they will work for "UNITY" on the basis of God's Word.

Even a casual observer can detect the division that exists among the children of God. Churches have divided, families have been separated, tears have been shed, and brethren have been alienated from each other (and some from God) because of the problems which have arisen over HUMAN INSTITUTIONS, the "SPONSORING CHURCH"

projects and a number of other things.

### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVISION?

When division exists, someone has caused or is causing the division and must bear the responsibility for its existence. R. W. Gray, editor of the North Broad Bulletin, made the following charge: "Men possessed with an 'anti' spirit have changed their positions in regard to co-operative efforts and have wrought havoc among the churches in many places. The result: (1) The work of Christ has been greatly retarded. (2) Brethren, even members of the same families, have been alienated. (3) Division among God's people has disgraced His great and good Name. (4) A faction with built-in self destruction has been born. (5) Hearts have been broken, fellowship severed, and God is displeased." (North Broad Bulletin, not numbered or dated). By "men possessed with an 'anti' spirit", editor Gray means men who have objected to churches contributing to HUMAN ORGANIZATIONS and centralized church "projects" such as the HERALD OF TRUTH. Although he charges such men with causing division, he only assumes and asserts it. **He does NOT prove it.** Charges and counter charges have been made relative to who is causing division among God's people. Let us honestly consider this question: **Are those who oppose unscriptural projects such as those mentioned above responsible for the division that exists, or are those who support and encourage them responsible for it?**

In 1 Kings 18:17 Ahab said unto Elijah, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" But Elijah answered: "I have not troubled Israel; but thou and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." Although Ahab tried to shift the blame for troubling Israel on Elijah, in reality, **Ahab and his father's house were the troublemakers in Israel because they had forsaken the commandments of the Lord.** Today, those who have forsaken the authority of Christ are responsible for the trouble and division among God's people.

In the first century trouble and dis-

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sention arose relative to the question of circumcision. (See Acts 15:1-32). Who were the **troublers** in the church? Those who bound circumcision or those who objected to the binding of it? It is very clear that those who bound circumcision were responsible for the dissension and trouble. Those who taught false doctrine caused the trouble. (See Gal. 5:1-13). Today, **those who teach false doctrine cause the dissension and trouble in the church.**

In the 1800's when trouble and division arose in the church over "mechanical instrumental music" and "missionary societies", who caused the division? Those who objected to these things or those who defended and promoted them? Who? Obviously, since mechanical instrumental music and church-supported missionary societies are not authorized in the Scriptures, **those who defended and promoted them were the ones responsible for havoc and dissension wrought among the people of God.**

Today, there is trouble, dissension, and division in the blood-bought church of Jesus Christ over church-supported institutions such as benevolent institutions, so-called Christian schools, missionary organizations, hospitals, "sponsoring church" projects and church supported recreational and entertainment projects.

**Who are the troublers in the Lord's church? Who is causing the division? Are those who object to the above things responsible for the division or are those who promote and defend these projects responsible for it? Let us honestly answer that question. Since there is NO DIVINE AUTHORITY for the church to sponsor or support such projects and activities, it is self-evident that those who promote, advocate, defend or encourage such activities MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TROUBLE, DISSENSION AND DIVISION THAT EXIST OVER THESE ISSUES!**

In view of the facts involved and our responsibility to obey the Lord, we have no choice but to "Mark them which cau-

se divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine" of Christ because "they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." (See Romans 16:17-18). Editor Gray, the North Broad Church and others who support, promote or defend church-supported institutions, "sponsoring church" projects and church-supported (or sponsored) entertainment and recreational projects **are the real troublers in the church. THEY MUST BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAUSING DISSENSION AND DIVISION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD! They have forsaken the authority of Christ! They can not escape that responsibility by, like Ahab of old, trying to shift the blame on those who are teaching the truth.**

We sincerely plead with editor Gray, the North Broad Church and all of like persuasion to discontinue their unscriptural practices and cease their false teaching. We urge and exhort them to work for the "UNITY" of brethren in Christ by teaching and practicing only those things authorized in the New Testament of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

(CRS)

## What Would You Do?

If you knew that you would be lost eternally in hell UNLESS you **believed** with all of your heart that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, **sincerely repented** of every sin, openly **confessed** with your mouth your faith and were **baptized** in water for the remission of your sins, **WHAT WOULD YOU DO?** Please read the following passages and then decide to obey the Lord. Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6; Acts 8:35-39; Acts 2:38; Rom. 10:10; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Peter 3:21. You will face truth as revealed in God's Book when you stand before God in judgment! (CRS)

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even us, and likely never will. Furthermore the passage does not mention the second coming of Christ, a bodily resurrection, a reign on earth, the throne of David, Jerusalem or Palestine, Christ on earth, or all the righteous. Premillennialists **assume** these points, but, remember, **assumption** is not proof!

That Christ is now on David's throne according to prophecy is evident from Peter's sermon on Pentecost. (Acts 2:29-36). Here Peter quotes Psalms 132:11 which says Christ shall sit on David's throne and affirms its fulfillment in the resurrection of Christ and His exaltation to the Father's right hand. On this throne He now reigns and will continue to do so until He comes again. (1 Cor. 15:22-26).

According to Paul, Christ was reigning when he wrote 1 Corinthians 15:28: "then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

—Marshall E. Patton in  
**SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES,**  
August, 1960

## THE CAST-OFF

We are living in a day and age in which it is easy to be persuaded to cast off modesty and decency, but no matter how easy it may be it still does not give license to immodest dress, actions, or language.

We must never forget that real Christian modesty is always in vogue and that Christianity itself is at stake in our appearance, our work, and our conversation. The apostle Paul tells us, "I desire therefore that the men pray in every place, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and disputing. In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety; not with braided hair, and gold or pearls or costly raiment." (1 Timothy 2:8-9).

It is quiet common to hear a man rebuked with these words: "Be careful, there are ladies present." It is time that this should be turned around and we say to ourselves: "Be careful, there is a Christian present." And you and I must be that Christian."

—Selected via GOSPEL DIGEST

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## Sentence Sermons

If your religion leaves your life unchanged, you had better change your religion.

It is always a safe policy not to raise any more devil than you can cast out.

If a bad man has sown evil; put your own sickle to it and cut it down.

True Christians are like tea; their real strength is evident when they get into hot water.

Beauty is more the result of how you make up your mind than how you make up your face.

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