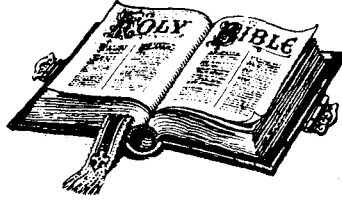


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## DISCRIMINATION

One should learn to discriminate between the authority of the Bible and man's word. The masses of the people put about as much confidence in man's word and human doctrines as they put in the word of God. Jesus says: "**But in vain do they worship me, teaching as their doctrines the precepts of men.**" (Matthew 15:9), Jesus said again: "**Ye leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men... making void the word of God by your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things ye do.**" (Mark 7:8-13).

One should learn to discriminate between the church of the New Testament and the denominations founded by men. The church revealed in the New Testament is as much unlike the denominations of men as those denominations are unlike each other. The denominations were started by uninspired men in recent years, while the New Testament church was built by Jesus Christ during the first half of the first century A.D. Jesus Christ built his church, gave himself for it, purchased it with his blood, he is the head of the church, the foundation of the church, and he is the Saviour of the body which is the church.

The apostles did not belong to a denomination, but they belonged to the church. [Editor's note: It would be more accurate to say, "they belonged to

Christ. They were in the church. They were members of his body."] During the days of the apostles, the disciples were only Christians and Christians only, members of the New Testament church.

Those who heard the word of Christ, believed His word, repented of their sins, confessed their faith in Christ and were baptized into Christ for the remission of sins were by the Lord added to His church.

One must discriminate between the church and the world. There are sometimes members who are so worldly that it is difficult to distinguish between those in the church and those out in the world.

Individuals should so live as members of the church to show people in the world that there is a distinct difference between members of the church and persons of the world.

One should distinguish between reputation and character. Some individuals have a wide reputation, but some have poor characters. Some so-called Christians have a wide reputation, but some do not have a very good character. Jesus had the greatest character ever possessed, but he often had little or no reputation. One should be careful to possess a strong Christian character, then the reputation will take care of itself.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### **“CONSIDER WHAT I SAY . . .”**

In his second letter to Timothy, his **“own son in the faith,”** the apostle Paul said: **“Consider what I say: and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.”** (2 Tim. 2:7). Since the Lord would give Timothy **“understanding in all things”** if he would **“consider”** what the apostle Paul said, it was left up to Timothy as to whether or not he would receive **“understanding.”** Understanding was available to Timothy, but his receiving it was conditional. Timothy would have to consider what Paul said.

Later in this same letter, Paul charged Timothy to **“study”** (i.e., **give diligence**) to show himself **“approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”** (2 Tim. 2:15).

Paul warned of perilous times that would come because of evil men. He warned Timothy to **“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”** (2 Tim. 2:22).

Paul also charged Timothy to **“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.”** (2 Tim. 4:2). In his first letter to Timothy, Paul charged Timothy to **“... war a good warfare;**

**Holding faith and a good conscience.”** (1 Tim. 1:18-19).

In order for Timothy to flee youthful lusts and to follow righteousness, faith, charity and peace, preaching the word, reproving, rebuking and exhorting, warring a good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience, Timothy would need **“understanding in all things.”** In order for him to receive that understanding, he would have to **“consider”** what Paul, an inspired man, said.

To the saints at Ephesus Paul said: **“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is,”** (Ephesians 5:17). They, too, would need to listen to and consider what the apostle Paul (and other inspired men) said in order to receive understanding. In fact, in Ephesians 3:2-6 Paul told them that he received the knowledge he had in the mystery of Christ **“by revelation”** and that he wrote it in few words to enable them, when they read it, to **understand** his knowledge in the mystery of Christ.

Two points are crystal clear. (1) Understanding is possible, and (2) Understanding is conditional. One must **consider** what inspired men of God have spoken.

It seems to me that many people contend that it is not possible for us to receive understanding for at least two reasons; (1) They do not want to consider what inspired men have said, and (2) They are not willing to **accept** what inspired men of God have spoken.

One will not truly **“consider”** what inspired men of God have written unless they are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. (Cf. Matthew 5:6 and 1 Peter 2:1-2). NOTE: There aren't too many folks in many places who are hungry and thirsty. Such people will **never** receive understanding unless their attitude changes. It is through the precepts of God that we receive understanding. (Cf. Psalms 119:104). In speaking to God, the Psalmist said: **“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple.”** (Psalms 119:130).

Friend, it is possible to receive understanding. Do you understand?

(CRS)

(To be continued)

# THE UNSEEN SOUL

(Continued from page 1)

It is said that while a famous preacher was delivering a sermon on the immortality of the soul, an atheistic physician rose and asked him if he had ever seen the soul."

The physician continued, "Did you ever hear a soul?"

"No."

"Did you ever taste a soul?"

"No."

"Did you ever smell a soul?"

"No."

"Did you ever feel a soul?"

"Yes, thank God," replied the pious preacher.

"Well," said the physician, "There are four of the five senses against one that there is a soul."

The preacher then asked, "Did you ever see a pain?"

The physician had to confess, "No."

"Did you ever hear a pain?"

"No."

"Did you ever taste a pain?"

"No."

"Did you ever smell a pain?"

"No."

"Did you ever feel a pain?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, there are four senses against one that there is pain, and yet you know there is pain. So I know there is a soul." — From CHURCH NEWS, Jefferson, Iowa, May 14, 1950 via GOSPEL DIGEST.

[**Editor's note:** We do not have to trust any of our five senses, including our feelings, to **know** that there is soul [or spirit] within man. Such passages as Zechariah 12:1; Matthew 10:28; Revelation 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and I Peter 1:9 **prove that there is a soul!**].

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH BUILDING OCTOBER 26-31, 1986. **Our beloved brother BOBBY ROBINSON of Athens, Alabama will be preaching.** The time will be 7:30 each evening. **ALL ARE INVITED AND URGED TO ATTEND! Tell others!**

## DISCRIMINATION

An individual should discriminate between mere faith and saving faith. It should be borne in mind that God does not save the believing disobedient. God has not promised to save a believer who will not act according to God's commands.

James says: "**But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, in that he offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Thou seest that faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect; and the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness; and he was called the friend of God. Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith.**" (James 2:20-24). Jesus said: "**And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?**" (Luke 6:46). Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all who obey him. (Heb. 5:9).

Religious people should discriminate between the different kinds of works. There are the works of the flesh, the works of the law of Moses, one's own works, the works of righteousness and the work of faith. One cannot be justified by the works of the law of Moses, neither by his own works, but by the work of righteousness which is by faith.

Persons should discriminate between real miracles and make-believe miracles. There was a special cause for performing miracles during the days of Christ and the beginning of the church of Christ in the world. Miracles were not performed to save souls. The gospel of Christ was confirmed with miracles.

Everything in the divine economy starts in a miracle and continues by the operation of natural laws. After the church was established (firmly grounded — CRS), miracles were no longer necessary. — Hoyt Bailey in GOSPEL DIGEST, Jan., 1950.

# SUTTON - FROST DEBATES

**Carrol R. Sutton** and **Jack L. Frost**, a member of the "**Corona End Time Tabernacle of True Holiness Church**" of Berry, Alabama, have signed an agreement to have several public discussions. The first one is scheduled to be conducted **September 8, 9, 11, and 12, 1986** at the **SOUTH TUSCALOOSA CHURCH OF CHRIST** building. It is located at 501 37th Street, East, in TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA. 37th Street, East, is also known as **Jug Factory Road**. The time will be 7:30 each evening.

On September 8-9, 1986, **Carrol R. Sutton** will **affirm** that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT WATER BAPTISM IS ESSENTIAL TO OBTAIN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY THE ALIEN SINNER." **Jack L. Frost** will **deny** that proposition.

On September 11-12, 1986, **Jack L. Frost** will **affirm** that "THE SCRIP-

TURES TEACH THAT WATER BAPTISM IS NOT ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY THE ALIEN SINNER." **Carrol R. Sutton** will **deny** that proposition.

A second debate is scheduled to be conducted in November, 1986, between these same two men. At that time **Jack L. Frost** will **affirm** that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT THE ONLY SCRIPTURAL MODE OF BAPTISM ORDAINED OF GOD IS SPRINKLING AND POURING," and **Carrol R. Sutton** will **affirm** that "THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT IMMERSION (A BURIAL IN WATER) IS THE PROPER ACTION OF BAPTISM."

For more information regarding these debates, please contact either **Bob Smith** at (205) 345-2378 or **Bob Mitchell** at (205) 752-9000.

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

The truth never hurts — unless it ought to. — **B. C. Forbes**

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Immorality on the part of most people does **not** justify immorality by **any** person.

\* \* \* \* \*

A wise man adapts himself to circumstances, but is not necessarily molded by them.

\* \* \* \* \*

Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all.

\* \* \* \* \*

Failure can become a weight or it can give you wings.

\* \* \* \* \*

A foolish man can make money. It takes a wise man to know how to spend it.

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