

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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FALLING FROM GRACE

Did you know there are over twenty-five hundred (2500) warnings in the Bible against man's FALLING FROM GRAE? The false doctrine of "impossibility of apostasy" or "once saved, always saved" or "perseverance of the saints" is popular with several large denominations, but not with God. This Calvinistic teaching, if it were true, would make man merely a machine. Before conversion, man can do nothing to be saved; after conversion, man can do nothing to be lost. The logical result of such unscriptural Thinking makes it God's fault (since man can do nothing) if one is lost. Impossible! Unscriptural!

BELIEVE THESE WARNINGS

1. **"If thou forsake Him, He will cast thee off."** (1 Chron. 28:9).
2. **"But if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you."** (2 Chron. 15:2).
3. **"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." "When I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."** (1 Cor. 10:12; 9:27).
4. **"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance."** (Hebrews 3:12; 6:4-6 (see v.6).

5. **"Christ is become of none effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE."** (Galatians 5:4)

These are but a few of the hundreds of warnings, scriptural warnings, against falling from grace. Notice — the Bible says, **"Whosoever of you are justified by the law; YE ARE FALLEN FROM GRACE,"** (see number 5); but man says, **"YE CANNOT FALL FROM GRACE!"** Now, which do you believe? Surely, all of us must take God's truth over the creeds and false doctrines of men. The choice is up to you, but the consequences of the wrong choice are severe.

THE EXAMPLE OF SIMON

The example of Simon, the sorcerer, should convince any Bible believer a child of God can so sin as to be lost. Luke, the writer of Acts, tells us, **"Then Simon himself BELIEVED also . . . he was BAPTIZED . . . and he CONTINUED with Philip."** (Acts 8:13). How strained one is to argue with Simon (He believes, is baptized and continues) was not really converted in the first place. Such reasoning (?) shows the weakness of this false teaching. Simon is guilty of sin (v. 18-20) and

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Editorial . . .

OUR STUDIES ARE NOW HISTORY

The series of studies that the church here provided for September 7-12 were conducted as planned.

On Monday evening September 7 in our first lesson we discussed "**Scriptural Authority — Generic and Specific.**" We considered "**How To Establish Scriptural authority**" and concluded that such is done by PRECEPT (command or statement), APPROVED EXAMPLE and NECESSARY IMPLICATION. We then discussed "**Commands — Generic and Specific.**" We showed how **authority** may be **generic** (inclusive of anything within the scope of the general command or statement) or **specific** (exclusion of everything co-ordinate to the thing specified). We showed how **choice** is allowed in **generic** authority but **no choice** is allowed in **specific** authority. However, we pointed out that a command or statement may be **specific** in one respect and **generic** in another. For an example we stated that **sing** is **specific** from the standpoint of the **kind** of music that God authorizes, but **sing** is **generic** with respect to tempo, parts, etc.

In making application of these principles we concluded that there is **no Scriptural authority** for church supported institutions whether they are in

the field of evangelism, edification or relief work.

In our second lesson brother Windell Wisser discussed "**Co-operation of Churches.**" He showed from the Scriptures that churches co-operated in the first century in relieving needy saints; that churches co-operated by sending to the church (or churches) where the relief was needed. It was sent to the elders. In evangelism churches sent wages directly to the preacher. It was shown that churches did not function either through a human organization or a "sponsoring church arrangement." **No** Scriptural authority could be found for either.

On Tuesday September 8 in our first lesson we discussed "**Aids And Additions.**" The difference between "aids" and "additions" was shown. "**Aids**" are authorized although not necessarily mentioned, but "**additions**" are **sinful!**

In our second lesson brother Wisser discussed "**Objects of Church Relief.**" When considering all the information in the New Testament it was concluded that the church (as a collectivity) is limited to **saints** in the field of relief (as far as direct relief is concerned).

On Wednesday September 9 brother Wisser discussed "**May Churches Donate to 'Christian Schools' and 'Missionary Societies?'**" When Scriptural authority for churches to donate to either so-called "Christian Schools" or "Missionary Societies."

On Thursday September 10 in our first lesson we discussed "**How Versus Organization.**" It was emphasized that God's Word does **not** bind the "**how**" with respect to methods used by the church whether it (the church as a unit or collectivity) is engaging in evangelism, edification or relief of destitute saints. Neither do we bind the "**how.**" However, God did bind the "**organization**" that provides the "**how**" and so do we! God bound the **church!**

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OUR STUDIES ARE NOW HISTORY

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In our second study brother Hiram Hutto discussed "**Individual Action Versus Church Action.**" He first showed by and from the Scriptures that the church (as an entity or unit or collectivity) **does** exist. He showed that the **church** as a unit can function. The difference between individual action and church action was clearly shown. He discussed a number of Scriptures that show such a distinction. He showed some things that individuals may do that God has **not** authorized the church to do.

On Friday September 11 "**Arguments Made In An Effort To Justify Church Supported Institutions**" were discussed. We tried to be fair in the presentation of arguments we have heard through the years. (Of course, we would have been delighted if some "institutionally" minded brother had been present and had made the arguments he thought justifies church supported institutions.) We discussed as many arguments as time permitted and showed why such does **not** prove that God has authorized churches to make donations from their treasuries to human institutions that in turn preach the gospel.

In the second lesson that evening brother Hutto examined the subject: "**The Church — Recreation, Entertainment And Social Activities.**" In this study brother Hutto quoted from a large number of bulletins that indicated that churches (as units or collectivities) are arranging and providing facilities for recreation, entertainment and social activities such as ball teams, banquets, Boy Scout Troops, ping pong, TV, greased pig chases, etc.

In discussing these activities brother Hutto showed that there is **no** authority in God's Word for churches to engage in such! It is lawlessness! It is iniquity!

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

The people of Berea were called **noble** because they searched or examined the scriptures in order to know the truth. (Acts 17:11). They were deeply interested in truth, not blindly accepting what they heard. One of the great tragedies of our day is that many accept teaching as being true without first investigating to see if it harmonizes with the word of God.

What does "search" or "examine" mean? When a lawyer does careful and exact research in a case he is doing what this word means. When a woman puts flour through a sifter each particle of flour is examined. In olden days men panned for gold. They sifted the sand

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OUR STUDIES ARE NOW HISTORY

(Continued from left column)

Our series came to a close on Saturday evening with brother Wiser preaching on "**Neither Be Partaker Of Other Men's Sins.**" He showed how a number of Old Testament characters such as Adam, Aaron and Solomon partook of the sins of others. He also discussed 2 John 9-11 and 1 Cor. 5 and showed how we must be careful lest we partake of other men's sins.

We had a good (and I think a profitable) series of meetings. Good interest was shown by those who attended. Although we were disappointed that many who could have profited by the studies did **not** see fit to attend, we were encouraged by those who did come and study with us. We have received requests for tapes of the lessons from as far away as Florida, Vermont and Arizona and as near as Albertville.

We believe the truth was set forth in these lessons and we pray that all who heard or who **will** hear these lessons will allow God's truth to have free course in their hearts and lives to the end that God may be glorified.

(CRS)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

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and gravel of California streams in the hope of finding gold nuggets. We need to study the scriptures with more care than a '49er panning for gold.

Martin Luther searched the scriptures. He gave the Germans the word of God in their own language. It is said that he studied the Bible as he gathered apples. First, he shook the whole tree, that the ripest might fall; then he shook each limb, and when he had shaken each limb, he shook each branch, every twig; and then he looked under every leaf. Search the Bible as a whole, shaking the whole limb — study book after book. Then shake every branch, giving attention to the chapters when they do not break the sense. Then shake every twig by a careful study of the paragraphs and sentences. And you will be rewarded if you will look under each leaf, by searching the meaning of the words.

Study the Bible for yourself. You will learn what God wants you to do in order to be saved, how you are to worship God, and how you are to conduct the daily activities of life. **Search the scriptures!**

- Lynn Headrick in ATHENS —
LIMESTONE FREE PRESS,
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SUTTON-FROST DEBATE

The next SUTTON — FROST DEBATE is scheduled to be conducted November 16, 17, 19 and 20, 1987 in the United Mine Workers' Building near the Post Office in BERRY, ALABAMA.

The essentially of water baptism in order to receive forgiveness of alien sins will be discussed.

The time will be 7:30 p.m.

Please mark your calendar and make plans to be with us. **Tell others!**

Jack L. Frost is the founder and president of a new demonination.

FALLING FROM GRACE

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Peter, the inspired apostle, said to him, "Thy money PERISH WITH THEE," (v. 20). This erring, baptized believer (Simon) was going to "PERISH" if he did not repent and pray (v. 22). Friends, a child of God can be cut off from Christ by sin. A Christian can fall from grace and be lost!

— Dick Ward

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

You cannot walk with God while you are running with the devil.

* * * * *

A man can make money, but money can never make a man.

* * * * *

Faithful cross-bearing ends up in crown-wearing.

* * * * *

Nothing is religiously right which is morally wrong.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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