

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 36

SEPTEMBER, 1999

Number 9

"BE NOT...BUT..."

A number of times in the New Testament Scriptures various ones were told directly (and all of us indirectly) to **"Be not...but be..."** A study of some of those passages should be of interest to us and benefit us. Here are some of them.

1. EPHESIANS 5:17 SAYS: **"Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."** NOTE: It is obvious from this passage that a person who understands the will of the Lord is wise! (Also see Proverbs 9:10; James 1:5-6; 3:16-17; Psalms 119:130; Eph. 3:2-6; 2 Tim. 2:7).

2. 1 COR. 14:20 SAYS: **"Brethren, be not children in understanding; howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men."** NOTE: We should not be easily led, cry, pout or play most of the time like children, but we should think, understand and act like men. In malice we should be like children. We should be humble, easily taught and forgiving. (Cf. 1 Cor. 13:11).

3. ROMANS 12:2 SAYS: **"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and**

perfect will of God." NOTE: We should not be molded or fashioned like the world. We should be changed in everything that is sinful. Our lives must be different. They must be directed by and must conform to the Word of God. This is accomplished by the renewing (or the renovating) of our minds. It begins in the heart! (Cf. Proverbs 4:24; Phil. 4:8-9).

4. ROMANS 12:16 SAYS: **"...Be not wise in your own conceits."** NOTE: We should not think more highly ourselves than we ought to think, but we should think soberly and have a meek and humble attitude. (Cf. Rom. 12:3; 1 Peter 5:6).

5. HEBREWS 13:9 SAYS: **"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..."** NOTE: Don't be misled by false teachings!

6. 1 COR. 15:33 SAYS: **"Be not deceived, evil communications corrupt good manners."** *Take heed!*

7. GALATIANS 6:7-9 SAYS: **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap..."** NOTE: *Listen!* If you sow to the flesh you will reap corruption! To reap life everlasting you must sow to the Spirit! *Take heed!*

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(usps # 581680)

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

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Second-class postage paid in
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Editorial...

DID JESUS CEASE BEING A MAN!

[NOTE: In this study we are not discussing the Deity of Jesus. Without question Jesus was Deity *before* He came to earth. He was Deity *while* on earth and He *always* will be Deity. In this study we are not primarily considering the *humanity* of Jesus Christ while on earth. He was in *reality* a man while on earth! In this study we are primarily considering the question as to whether Jesus *lost his humanity* (or ceased being a man) *after* His death on the cross and His ascension into heaven.]

In an article last month in *The Instructor* we considered and proved by the Scriptures the *humanity* of Jesus Christ while on earth. He was in fact *a man* while on earth. [if you did not receive that article and would like to receive it please send us a request for it and it will be sent to you.]

All that we know (or can know) about the *humanity* of Jesus after His death on the cross and His ascension into heaven is what we learn from the *Scriptures*. Please consider the following facts about Jesus Christ.

1. THE EXPRESSION "SON OF MAN" (REFERRING TO JESUS) IS USED A NUMBER OF TIMES WITH

REFERENCE TO JESUS AND THINGS HE WOULD DO AFTER HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS. Here are some of them.

A. When Jesus was before Caiaphas, he (Caiaphas, the high priest) said to Jesus, "**I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.**" Jesus replied, "**Thou hast said; nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.**" (See Mt. 26:63-64). Also see Luke 22:69. NOTE: Jesus said *hereafter* (or henceforth) *the Son of man* would sitting on the right hand of Power and coming in the clouds of heaven.

B. In Mark 8:38 Jesus said: "**Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**" NOTE: Here again Jesus is spoken of as *the Son of man* with reference to His later coming in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

C. In Luke 18:8 Jesus said, "**...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**" NOTE: Again Jesus referred to Himself as *the Son of man* when he comes.

D. In Luke 12:40 Jesus said: "**Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not**". NOTE: *The Son of man* is going to come unexpectedly! Jesus said so!

E. In Luke 21:36 Jesus said: "**Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand**

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before the Son of man." NOTE: We will stand before *the Son of man!*

F. When Peter asked Jesus what would they have because they had forsaken all and followed him, He replied, "**That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**" (Mt. 19:28). NOTE: During the regeneration *the Son of man* would sit in the throne of His glory. Jesus said so!

OBSERVATION: In each of the above instances (or cases) Jesus referred to Himself as *the Son of man* in which He was describing events or situations that would occur *after His death and ascension into heaven!* The above passages seem to indicate that *Jesus would still be a man* (or retain His humanity) *after His ascension into heaven.*

2. In Acts 7:55-56 (referring to Stephen) we read: "**But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.**" NOTE: This event occurred sometime *after Jesus ascended into heaven.* Stephen saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God called Him *the Son of man!*

3. JESUS CHRIST, OUR HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN, IS SPOKEN OF AS A MAN! The Hebrew writer said, "**For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that *this man* have somewhat also to offer. For if he were one earth, he should**

not be a priest..." (See Hebrews 8:1-4). NOTE: The Hebrew writer refers to Jesus as *this man!* This was probably written about thirty years after the ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. This passage seems to indicate that He, *as a man*, is serving as our High Priest.

4. REFERRING TO JESUS CHRIST, Hebrews 10:12 says: "**But *this man*, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.**" NOTE: Here Jesus is spoken of as *this man* who sat down on the right hand of God. QUESTION: Was Jesus *a man* when He sat down on the right hand of God?

5. IN HIS SERMON IN ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA IN ABOUT AD 45, PAUL DECLARED: "**Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through *this man* is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.**" (Acts 13:38). NOTE: Years after His ascension into heaven Paul referred to Jesus as *this man*. Was Paul mistaken? Had Jesus *ceased being a man when He died on the cross or when He ascended into heaven?*

6. ABOUT 30 (OR SO) YEARS AFTER JESUS CHRIST ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN PAUL SAID: "**For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, *the man Christ Jesus.***" NOTE: Paul did not say *there was* but he said *there is!* Would you deny that "*the man Christ Jesus*" *is* our mediator? I would not!

7. THAT MAN WHOM GOD RAISED FROM THE DEAD WILL JUDGE THE WORLD! In Acts 17:31 we learn that God "**hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the**

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world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." NOTE: Paul affirms that that *man* whom God raised from the dead will judge the world. What *man* did God raise from the dead? *Jesus Christ!* (See Acts 2:32; 3:26; 13:30-34; 2 Tim. 2:8; etc.) Would you be bold enough to deny that the *man* Jesus Christ will judge the world?

8. JESUS NOW HAS A GLORIOUS BODY! Paul said that the Lord Jesus Christ "**shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**" in Phil. 3:21.

1 John 3:2 says: "**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**"

We learn from 1 Cor. 15:35-56 that the body of a man is sown in corruption as a natural body but it is raised in incorruption as a spiritual body. As we have born the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of heavenly. This mortal body must put on immortality.

When these changes occur we won't cease being human beings and become gods, will we? Surely not!

QUESTION: Could not changes have taken place in the body of Jesus Christ without Him *ceasing to be a man*? When He came to earth could He have become *a man* eternally?

The above Scriptures seem to indicate that *Jesus did not cease to be a man* at His death and ascension and that *He is still a man* and will be at least until the judgment! (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

East Albertville, Albertville, AL Sept. 19-24, 1999--Hiram Hutto will be preaching. Tell others! Sugar Creek, Hayden, AL December 3-5, 1999.

SENTENCE SERMONS

A breath of truth with kindness is more moving than a gale of flattery.

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Genuine charity doesn't care if it is tax deductible or not.

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It is better to be right in a little place than to be wrong in a big place.

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It is a lot easier for a man to love his enemies than to make his enemies love him.

* * * * *

Too much intelligence and too little wisdom have caused a lot of trouble for many people.

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