

# 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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## WHO IS A WISE MAN?

Man's interest in wisdom dates back to Adam and Eve. The serpent used the promise of such to tempt Eve. (See Gen. 3:4-6).

There is a distinction between education and wisdom. Both a parrot and a fool can be educated, but neither have wisdom. **Wisdom** is "the ability to judge soundly and deal sagaciously with facts, especially as they relate to life and conduct." (WEBSTER). The only true wisdom is that which descendeth from above. (See James 3:15, 17). The man who has wisdom is definitely described in the Scriptures, as we shall see.

**ONE WHO LIVES A GOOD LIFE IS WISE.** James answered the question: "Let him show out of a good conversation (show by his good life—ASV his works with meekness of wisdom." (Jas. 3:13). It is wise to be good; it is foolish to be evil.

We can see that genuine wisdom is always accompanied with meekness. Some overbearing and blustering men who pass for great scholars may have learning, but they have no wisdom because they have no meekness. Knowledge may be proud and conceited but wisdom is meek and humble.

**ONE WHO RESPECTS HIS PARENTS IS WISE.** Solomon said: "A wise son heareth his father's instruction," (Prov. 13:1), but "A fool despiseth his father's correction." (Prov. 15:5). Children are commanded to "**honour**" their parents. This was also one of the ten commandments. (See Eph. 6:2 & Exo. 20:12).

**ONE WHO HARKENS TO COUNSEL IS WISE.** "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that harkeneth unto counsel is wise." (Prov. 12:15). The fool will not listen, but the wise will. No one can tell the fool anything. He has to learn the hard way. He is devoid of reason.

**ONE WHO REFRAINETH HIS LIPS IS WISE.** "He that refraineth his lips is wise." (Prov. 10:19). Why? Because "in the multitude of words there wanteth not sin." A fool is soon recognized by his speech. "Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise." (Prov. 17:28). It is not wise to always say what you think. The wise man refrains from cursing, filthy speaking, railing, deceit, flattery and gossip. Gossip is a very common and dangerous sin. It does a devilish work that can't be recalled. A preacher once asked a woman to scatter some feathers down a certain street. When she returned, he said: "Retrace your steps and gather up one by one all those feathers you scattered." The woman replied: "That is impossible because the wind has scattered them in all directions." The preacher then got to the point: "So it is with your words of slander; they are like the feathers the wind has scattered, for it is impossible to call them back." May each of us say; I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue." (Psa. 39:1).

**ONE WHO WINS SOULS IS WISE.** "He that winneth souls is wise." (Prov. 11:30).

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## Editorial . . .

### HUSBANDS: THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

(NO. 2)

Husbands who **dwell with their wives according to knowledge leave** their fathers and mothers and **cleave** unto their wives. Furthermore, **they are not bitter** against their wives and **they do not put them away.** (See 1 Peter 3:7; Matthew 19:3-5; Col. 3:19 & 1 Cor. 7:11).

#### HUSBANDS ARE THE HEADS

Paul said: "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ, and the **head of the woman is the man**; and the head of Christ is God." (1 Cor. 11:3). God's general order of headship places man as the head of the woman. Specifically, **the husband is the head of the wife.** The apostle Paul said: "**For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body.**" (Eph. 5:23).

An animal with two heads is a monstrosity, and a marriage relationship with two heads is a failure. It is not as God ordained it. Neither has God ordained that the woman is to be the head of the husband.

Being the "**head**" suggests the authority or direction of the husband in relationship to the wife. The relation of the husband as head over the wife is not merely one of domination, but it is one of direction and self-sacrifice.

In Eph. 5:22-33, as well as in other passages, Paul is not emphasizing the husband's "**rights**", but his "**responsibilities.**" It is by fulfilling his "**responsibilities**" rather than claiming his "**rights**" that harmony

and happiness are achieved.

Husbands must not be domineering, tyrannical or overbearing. They must take the lead, give directions and thus fulfill their responsibilities. They must be concerned about the feelings, as well as, the welfare of their wives. As husbands take the lead and fulfill their responsibilities, they must keep in mind that Paul not only tells the wives to "submit" to their own husbands, but to "**guide**" the house." (See Tim. 5:14). The ASV says "**rule**" the household." Therefore, **husbands should allow their wives to "guide or rule the household" as God's Word teaches.** Of course, in "**guiding**" or "**ruling**" the household, the husband is an exception. The wife is not to "**guide**" or "**rule**" him.

In exercising headship, husbands should never act in such a way so as to cause the wives (and/or other people) to think that they do not love their wives.

#### HUSBANDS SHOULD PROVIDE

One of the responsibilities that God places on a husband is to provide the essentials of life for his wife. After sin entered the world, God told Adam that the ground was cursed for his sake and "**In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground.**" God told Eve that he would multiply her sorrow and conception and in sorrow she would bear children and her husband would rule over her." (See Gen. 3:16-20). The apostle Paul said: "But if any **provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**" (1 Tim. 5:8).

One who claims to love his wife, but who refuses to provide for her the essentials of life belies his claim. One who "**honors**" his wife as "**the weaker vessel**" will do all within his power that is right to adequately provide her with the necessities of this life. Jesus said those who refused to adequately provide for their needy parents made "**the word of God of none effect.**" The word of God said to "**honour thy father and thy mother,**" but their tradition made it of none effect. (See Mark 7:1-14). While the husband is providing food, shelter, clothing, etc., the wife can be "**guiding** the house" as 1 Timothy 5:14 teaches.

Husbands, please do not ask or encourage in any way your wives to leave the children alone or with a baby sitter and go out and get secular employment when you are able and have the responsibility to provide for her and the children. Meet your responsibilities of being the **head** and **providing** for your wives!

(To be continued)

(CRS)

# REMINDERS—REVIVALS

"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Eph. 5:14).

Very often Christians lose their enthusiasm and slump into a state of slumber. This condition may be described as sleep, hibernation, or even spiritual death. We have all experienced this either consciously or unconsciously. It will be better brought to mind if one compares his attitude and zeal immediately following a "gospel meeting" or a particularly stirring sermon to his present state of mind and involvement in church matters. Very few maintain an endless state of tireless servitude in the Lord's Kingdom. We tend to oscillate (up and down) from spiritual stupor to occasional awareness as we would fight sleep during a sermon. You want to hear but you can not overcome those heavy lids that take you into a realm far removed until some stimulus boosts you up into awareness once again. Such a stimulus in the spiritual sense could be the foregoing verse which demands that those in such unproductive state awake out of sleep and **arise** from the dead!

What other stimuli could be used to cause a revival among the 95% of the members of most congregations that continually remain in the twilight zone between sleep and awareness? One such tool is the minister. Paul told Timothy, "If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ . . ." (1Tim. 4:6). A good minister reminds Christians of God's love, of their responsibilities, and of the necessity of re-examination. He reminds them of truths they already know to insure that they remain spurred on to greater service to God. (2 Pet. 1:12).

Periodic meetings in series or of a regular and continual nature often serve to encourage Christians to serve more faithfully and grow in Christ. Such meetings may be very special in nature (personal worker's meetings, teacher's meetings, training classes); others may be general with any topic likely to be expounded—revival meeting.

Very often I have felt the sentiment expressed in the hymn, "In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare By thy return, Sweet Hour of Prayer." Had I missed that particular sweet hour of prayer with Jesus and the saints I might not have escaped and would now be entirely a

reprobate in the service of Satan! I "go to church" not because I am good, but because I **need** to so very much. This is a point so many in error fail to grasp. They often resort to trite expressions such as, "I will (attend services, live better, etc., ad-nauseum) as soon as I can straighten (myself, things, etc.) out." We must "Take time to be holy, Speak oft with the Lord, Abide in Him always, And feed on His word." We should "Make friends of God's children; Help those who are weak," and always remember to seek His blessings in everything. If everyone could do this, they would always be prepared for the coming of Christ.

However, each Christian needs the **church**. God's design is such that we all serve to stimulate each other to a greater degree of faithfulness. If we recognize this fact then we must accept the inherent responsibilities. How much better off the world would be if all Christians were always revived out of sleep and busy doing his part! What should we be doing to get this job done? Send your answer to:

**Mike Creel**

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## CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE?

The Bible is the most wonderful book in the world. It continues to be the world's best seller. It is loved by millions in life and cherished even more in death. Yet it is abused, misused, misunderstood and misrepresented more than any other book on earth. Many people admit they have great difficulty in understanding it, and some declare it is utterly impossible to understand it. However, Jesus commanded his apostles to "**Go . . . and teach all nations . . .**" Matt. 28:19). He also taught in Matt. 7:21 that one must **do God's will** in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven. In order to do God's will one must first **understand** what His will is. The apostle Paul said: "**Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.**" (Eph. 5:17).

God has always revealed His will in terms that men could understand. His instructions to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden were understood. (Gen. 3). Noah understood how to build the ark. (Gen. 6:13-22). Moses understood how to build the tabernacle. God gave him a pattern and demanded that he follow it. (See Exo. 25:40; Heb. 8:5).

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## SUTTON-SHARP DEBATES

Propositions have been signed and an agreement has been made for two public debates. The disputants in these debates will be **G. T. Sharp**, a United Pentecostal Church preacher, of Florence, Alabama and **Carrol R. Sutton** of Albertville. The subject to be discussed in one of the debates will be "**the Godhead**," and "**Holy Spirit Baptism**" will be the topic of discussion in the other one.

The first debate is scheduled for July 11, 12, 14, & 15, 1977 and the date for the second one has not yet been set. We will announce the exact location for the first debate a little latter. **Make your plans to attend.**

*(Continued from page 3)*

### CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE ?

The gospel is "**the power of God unto salvation.**" (Rom. 1:16). It is simple and the New Testament is written in simple language. There may be some things that we may never fully understand, but we can understand what we must do in order to be saved from past sins, (See Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27), which church we should be in, (See Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6), how we should worship. (See John 4:24), what name we should wear, (See Acts 4:12; 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16), and how to live a holy life, (See Tit. 2:11-12), if we approach the Bible with the proper attitude, study it diligently and rightly divide it as we study. (See 2 Tim. 2:15).

(CRS)

**PSALM 39:4 says:** "Jehovah, make me to know mine end, And the measure of my days, what it is; Let me know how frail I am." (ASV)

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We are still waiting for the "**elders**" of the West Hobbs Street Church in Athens, Alabama and **Albert Hill** of Florence to **honor** their agreement to re-schedule the HILL-SUTTON DEBATE. It has been **three years** since they made the agreement. Time does not release them. If they are honorable men they **will** schedule the debate in the near future although they are certainly on "**shakey**" ground by waiting **three** long years when they agreed to re-schedule the debate in a short time.

I am still pleading for someone to help them muster up enough **conviction** and **courage** to defend in public discussion their teaching and practice. Will they do it? Wait and see.

*(Continued from page 1)*

### WHO IS A WISE MAN ?

ONE WHO FEARS EVIL AND DEPARTS FROM IT IS WISE. "A wise man feareth and departeth from evil." (Prov. 14:6).

ONE WHO HEARS AND OBEYS THE LORD IS WISE. Jesus taught this in Matthew 7:21-27. The foolish do not make sufficient preparation, but the wise anticipate the storm and builds upon the rock. He anticipates the coming of the bridegroom and so he fills his vessel with oil. (See Matt. 25:1-13).

The wise man's philosophy of life is like that of the ant rather than the grasshopper. (See Prov. 30:25). The wise make preparation now rather than wait until tomorrow which may not come. Where do you stand?

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## Sentence Sermons

The world is too small a place to afford safety to the man who disobeys God.

Conviction, not convenience determines human destiny.

He who remembers only himself will soon be forgotten.

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