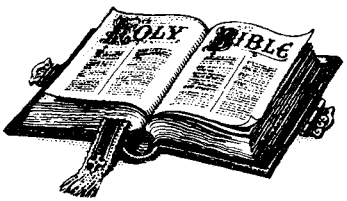
THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 21 **APRIL, 1984** **Number 4**

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD TRUTH?

Since truth is absolutely essential to our genuine happiness in this life and to eternal life in the world to come, we should examine our hearts and be **sure** that we have the proper attitude toward the truth.

In view of the value of truth, we should DESIRE it. The apostle Peter says, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, **desire the sincere milk of the word,** that ye may grow thereby . . ." (1 Peter 2:1-2). A long time ago while Paul and Barnabas were at Paphos, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man, called for them, **"and desired to hear the word of God."** (Acts 13:7). It is imperative that we **hear** because **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Jesus said: **"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."** (Mark 4:9). He also said: **"Take heed what ye hear . . ."** and **"Take heed therefore how ye hear . . ."** (See Mark 4:24 and Luke 8:18).

We should also BELIEVE the truth. The truth will save us only if we **believe** it because **"it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."** (1 Cor. 1:21). Jesus said: ". . . He that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16).

Not only should we DESIRE, HEAR and BELIEVE THE TRUTH, but we must be willing to RECEIVE the truth. James tells us to **"lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and** RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS **the engrafted word, which is able to save"** our souls. (James 2:21). Meeking in receiving the truth is necessary. We should also be **"noble"** as the Bereans of old were, and **receive "the word with all readiness of mind,"** and search **"the Scriptures daily"** to see what is really truth. (Cf. Acts 17:11). On the day of Pentecost, they that **"gladly received his word were baptized . . ."** (See Acts 2:37-41).

In order to DESIRE, HEAR, BELIEVE AND RECEIVE THE TRUTH, we must have a LOVE of truth. If we receive **"not the love of the truth"** God may send us a strong delusion that we should believe a lie that we might be damned because we have pleasure in unrighteousness. (Cf. 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12).

Do you really have a **love** for the truth? Do you have a sincere **desire** for the truth? Are you willing to **know** the truth? Are you willing to **receive** the truth? When you **hear** the truth, do you **believe** it? You should! In fact, you should **"stand in awe"** and **"tremble at His word!"** (Cf. Psa. 119:161 and Isaiah 66:5).

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

"PROOF REQUESTED — PROOF GIVEN" (No. 1)

It was mentioned in the last issue of THE INSTRUCTOR that some readers have requested Scriptural proof for the opposite views of some of the twenty-five things that I listed in the article entitled **Specific Wickedness** that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, in which I stated that "men **presume** are pleasing to God, but God has **not** authorized them to teach things." One reader used the expression **"Scriptural support"** and another reader used the expression **"positive authority"** and **"proof."** Since I referred to those twenty-five things listed as **"false"** claims and stated that the person who **"presumes"** to speak any of those things **"in the name of Christ, . . . is speaking presumptuously . . . because none of these things are taught in God's word,"** I have an obligation to show that those things mentioned are **not** taught in God's word and therefore are false.

As mentioned last month some readers have requested that I give Scriptural proof for the opposite views of five of the things listed. The five things mentioned are numbers 13, 16, 17, 20 and 23. I propose to give the Scriptural proof requested.

Before I begin giving that proof I would like to express again my sincere appreciation to the readers that made the request. It **is** encouraging to hear from such people. Their interest in truth and righteousness is evident. They are not willing to accept an assertion just because some preacher has given it! May their number increase exceedingly!

Let me suggest that those who advocate a doctrine have the obligation to produce **Scriptural proof** for their teaching. Merely asserting a doctrine is **not** proof that it is God's will! A long time ago Isaiah, a prophet of the God of heaven, said: **"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because they have no light in them."** (Isaiah 8:20). In the first century the apostle Paul said, **"Preach the word . . ."** and the apostle Peter said: **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God . . ."** (See 2 Tim. 4:2 and 1 Pet. 4:11). To illustrate this principle, let us consider the following: A person who teaches that "there are Christians in all churches," or "sinners are saved by faith only," or "a church can not withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church," etc. IS OBLIGATED TO SHOW BY THE SCRIPTURES THAT SUCH IS THE CASE! If a person can **not** show **by the Scriptures** that such teaching (what ever he is teaching) **is true,** he has **no right** (from God) to advocate such! I want all of you to keep this in mind. Remember, it is not sufficient for a person (even a preacher) to assert that "there are Christians in all churches," or "sinners are saved by faith only," or "a church can **not** withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church," etc. He must give **Scriptural proof!** Even if that person is a preacher of many years, of wide experience, of exceptional ability, of a pleasing personality, of great knowledge, of eloquent speech and is very popular among "the brotherhood," **he has no right to speak for God unless he is speaking what God has revealed!** If he is speaking God's will in the matter, **let him show by the Scriptures that such is the case!**

In our studies we will consider the things in the order the readers mentioned them. Let us now begin our study by considering **number thirteen.**

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

"13. **Churches may Scripturally contribute funds out of their treasuries to human organizations such as schools, benevolent organizations, etc.**"

COMMENTS: Assuming and asserting the above statement does not make it true. In fact, the above statement is **false** because of the following reasons.

1. There is **no Scriptural evidence** that churches may donate funds out of their treasuries to such organizations as those mentioned. Please observe the fact that **there is no command** for churches to do so! **There is no necessary implication** that churches (or **any** church for that matter) in the first century **did** donate to such organizations or that churches **may** Scripturally donate to such institutions! **There is no approved example** in the Scriptures of churches ever doing so! **Neither is there a statement** that indicates that churches **may** Scripturally make such contributions to such human organizations!

2. In teaching the truth, the **church** (as far as organization is concerned) is spoken of as being **"the pillar and ground of the truth."** (See I Timothy 3:15). We learn from 1 Thessalonians 1:8 that the **"church"** sounded out the word of the Lord! The **church** (as to organization or institution) **is specified** to make known God's word. This **excludes** other organizations from doing the work God assigned the **church** (collectively as an organization) to do. When God specified **"gopher wood"** in Gen. 6:14, that **excluded** all other woods. When God specified **"singing"** in Col. 3:16, that **excluded** all other music. When God specified **"bread"** and **"the cup"** in 1 Cor. 11:23-29, that **excluded** all other foods and drinks. When God specified a **"burial"** in baptism, that **excluded** all other actions (such as pouring and sprinkling). I know of **no** Scripture that **authorizes** churches to donate from their treasuries to human organizations such as Missionary Societies and so-called "Christian Colleges," etc. to enable them to preach (or teach) the gospel.

The **church** (as an organization) chooses the **"how,"** (that is, methods and procedures), but it does **not** donate to another organization and let it have the oversight of the work of the church and choose the methods and procedures in preaching (or teaching) the truth! Schools also engage in works such as providing **secular** education, social activities and recreation with which the **church** has not been charged.

3. In relieving the destitute, the **church** is **specified** as the organization (in contrast with the individual) to **relieve** widows indeed. (See 1 Timothy 5:16). This **excludes** other organizations from doing the relief work that God assigned the **church** to do. The **church** has the oversight of its work. The **church** chooses the **"how,"** (that is, the methods and procedures), it uses to do its work of relief. The **church** does **not** donate its funds to another organization such as **The Home For The Aged** (or **Childhaven, Inc.**) and let it have the oversight of the work and choose the methods and procedures used in relieving the needy.

4. Churches that donate to human institutions act **without authority** from God and hence they work lawlessness or iniquity. Consider the principle stated by Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23. Although the people mentioned there **claimed** they had acted and done many wonderful works **in the name of Christ,** in reality they had acted without authority from Christ and their works were iniquitous! Those who transgress and do not abide in **"the doctrine of Christ"** do **not** have God! It is a serious matter!

5. When a person **presumes** to speak that churches may contribute funds out of their treasuries to human organizations such as schools, benevolent organizations, etc. in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is making a false claim because such is **not** taught in God's word. The person that so speaks is guilty of wickedness!

We should so **"speak"** and **"do"** as those who will be **judged "by the law of liberty!"** (Cf. James 2:12). **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God."** (1 Pet. 4:11).

(CRS)

(To be continued)

MAKE TIME

Make time to think — it is the source of power.
Make time to play — it is the key to freedom and relaxation.
Make time to read — it is the gateway to knowledge.
Make time to worship — it washes the dust of earth from your eyes.
Make time to help and enjoy friends — no other happiness matches this.
Make time to love — if you don't it will fade away.
Make time to laugh and pray — these are two things that lighten life's load.
Make time to be alone with God — He is the source of everything.

— The Grapevine

SUTTON - THURMON DISCUSSION

Please remember the series of discussion to be conducted in Dyersburg, Tennessee July 10, 12 and 13, 1984. **"Hell," "The Sabbath"** and **"The First Day of the Week"** will be the topics discussed. **Roy Thurmon,** a Seventh Day Adventist, and **Carrol R. Sutton,** a Christian, will be the disputants. Mark your calendar.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

The value of time
The success of perserverance
The pleasure of working
The dignity of simplicity
The worth of character
The influence of example
The obligation of duty
The wisdom of economy
The improvement of talent
The joy of originating
The power of kindness.

— Pulpit Helps

THINGS PEOPLE WOULDN'T GIVE UP IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR SOUL:

1. **Possessions.** (Mark 10:17-22).
2. **Pride.** (Luke 18:9-14).
3. **Past.** (Acts 7:51-53).
4. **Prejudices.** (Romans 10:1-4).
5. **Power.** (John 11:47-48).
6. **Popularity.** (John 12:42-43).

The one who would follow Jesus must be willing to surrender anything that comes between Christ and his soul.

— Richard C. Gordon

— *SENTENCE SERMONS* —

Those who truly know God gives Him proper reverence.

* * * * *

The way we handle the word of God indicates our true feelings about God.

* * * * *

Although the price of wheat and oats rise and fall, the price of sin remains high.

* * * * *

The ignorance of ignorance is the death of knowledge.

* * * * *

Too many people think **service** means **serve us.**

* * * * *

Two great tests of character are wealth and poverty.

* * * * *

The clenched fist is not attached to the arm of love.

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