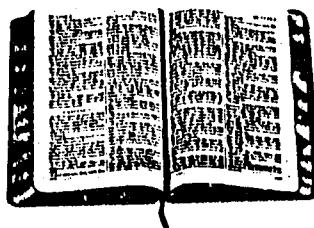


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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"BUT A FAITHFUL MAN WHO CAN FIND?"

Solomon said: "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?" (Proverbs 20:6).

It seems that some people think that nearly all men are faithful while others think that no man is faithful. Although Solomon declared that most men will proclaim their own good he suggests by the asking of the question ("But a faithful man who can find?") that there are not *many* faithful men.

Similarly another Proverb (31:10) says: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." Likewise this proverb suggests that there are not *many* virtuous women.

There are *some* virtuous women and there are *some* faithful men, but relatively speaking, there are *few*.

Please consider the following.

I. SOME EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL MEN.

A. ABRAHAM. In Gal. 3:9 Paul said, So then they which be of faith are blessed with *faithful Abraham*." Abraham was a man of faith and prompt obedience. (See Hebrews 11:8-10; 11:17-19).

B. MOSES. Speaking to Aaron and Miriam, the Lord said: "My servant Moses is not so, who is *faithful* in all mine house." (Num. 12:7). Also see Heb. 3:2 & 11:24-26.

C. DAVID. In 1 Sam. 22:14 we read: "And Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so *faithful* among all thy servants as David...?" He was a man after God's own heart according to Paul in Acts 13:22.

D. HANANIAH. We learn from Neh. 7:2 that "he was a *faithful* man and feared God above many."

E. DANIEL. We learn from Dan. 6:4 that Daniel was *faithful*.

F. TIMOTHY. Paul tells us in I Cor. 4:17 that Timothy was "*faithful* in the Lord."

G. TYCHICUS. In Eph. 6:21 He is spoken of as a "*faithful* minister in the Lord."

H. EPHAPHRAS. In Col. 1:17 he is spoken of as a "*faithful* minister of Christ."

I. ONESIMUS. He was "*a faithful* and beloved brother". (Col. 4:9).

J. ANTIPAS. We learn from Rev. 2:13 that Antipas was a "*faithful* martyr. (Also see Acts 22:20).
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Editorial...

WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG? (No. 2)

In our previous study we showed by the Scriptures that *Wrong Is Always Wrong*. We pointed out the following. I. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH MOST PEOPLE ACCEPT IT! II. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT! III. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH IT MAY GIVE A PERSON PLEASURE, and, IV. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH A PERSON DOES IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. Let us continue our study.

V. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH A PERSON THINKS IT IS RIGHT! Solomon tells us that "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes" and "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes." (Proverbs 21:2; 12:15). NOTE: The fact that the way of a fool is right in his own thinking does not make it right.

In Proverbs 14:12 we are told that "**T**here is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Also see Proverbs 16:25). NOTE: A way may seem right to a

person but in reality *it is wrong*. The fact that a person may think it is right does not make it right.

A person may *think* that it is right to teach that salvation is by faith only, but that does not make it right. (See James 2:14-26; Mk. 16:16; Acts 17:30; 1 Peter 3:21; etc.).

A person may think that it is right to teach that a person who has been *put away* (*divorced*) by his or her spouse has a right to marry again if the spouse later commits fornication, but that does not make it right. Read Mt. 5:32 & Mt. 19:9 very carefully and accept what the *text actually says*.

A person may think that it is right for a Christian to take judicial oaths, but that does not make it right. Read Mt. 5:33-37 & James 5:12 very carefully and accept what the *text actually says*.

A person may think that God does *not recognize* a marriage or a divorce unless it is according to His will, but that does not make it right. NOTE: Read Mt. 14:3-4 and Mark 6:16-18 and note these facts. (1) John was imprisoned by Herod for Herodias' sake. (2) Herod was married to Herodias. (3) Herod *had* Herodias since he had *married her*. (4) John condemned Herod for having Herodias, the wife of Herod's brother, Philip. He said: **I**t is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." FURTHER NOTE: God *recognized* the marriage of Herod and Herodias because the *text says*, "for he had married her", but He did not *approve* of it because He had John to say to Herod, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife." Since God *recognized* the marriage of Herod and Herodias it is probable that God *recognized* the divorce of Philip and Herodias since it was necessary for them to have a divorce before Herod could marry Herodias.

God *recognizes* that a thing has occurred although He may *not approve* of it occurring. God *recog-*

(Continued from page 2)

nized that the church at Ephesus *had left their first love*, but He *did not approve* of it. (See Rev. 2:1-1-7).

God *recognized* that the church at Thyatira had allowed Jezebel to teach and seduce God's servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrifices unto idols, but He *did not approve* of it. (See Rev. 2:18-23).

God *recognized* that the church of the Laodiceans was *lukewarm*, but He *did not approve* of it. (See Rev. 3:14-22).

Yes, God *recognizes* unscriptural marriages and divorces, but He *does not approve* of them.

Saul of Tarsus said, "*I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceeding mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.*" (Acts 23:9-11). NOTE: The fact that Saul *thought* he was right in persecuting Christians did not make it right. *It was wrong although he thought it was right!*

A person may think that it is right to deny the existence of God and teach the theory of evolution, but that does not make it right. *It is still wrong!* (See Gen. 1:1-31; Exo. 20:11; Psa. 33:6-9; 14:1).

A person may think that it is right to teach that an "innocent" person has a right to remarry if the spouse has committed fornication regardless of who divorces (puts away, gets the divorce) who, but that does not make it right. *It is still wrong!* The Lord said that "Whosoever shall *put away* his wife, except it

be for fornication, and marrieth another committeth adultery; and who marrieth her which is *put away* doth commit adultery." (Mt. 19:9). NOTE: According to this text, the *only* person who has a right to marry another is the innocent person that *puts away* (*divorces* -NKJV) his wife because she has committed adultery.

A person may think that it is right to teach that salvation is by faith only, but *it is still wrong* because it is not taught in the Scripture! (See Acts 17:30-31; Mt. 7:21; Acts 2:38; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14; James 2:14-26).

A person may think that it does not matter how we worship God if we are sincere, but *it is still wrong* because the Scriptures teach that worship must be in spirit and in truth in John 4:24. (Also see Mt. 15:7-9; Phil. 3:3).

A person may think that it is right to show respect of persons if close friends or relatives are involved, but *it is still wrong!* (See James 2:1-9).

A person may think that it is right to call the Pope of Rome *Holy Father* or to call a Catholic priest *Father* or to call the "master" of a local Masonic Lodge *Most Worshipful Master* or to call a man *Rabbi*, but *it is still wrong* according to Matthew 23:8-10.

A person may think that it is right to lie, but *it is still wrong* according to Eph. 4:25 and Rev. 21:8.

A person may think that it is right to have women preachers and leaders in the assemblies of God's people, but *it is still wrong!* (See 1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-14).

A person may think that he is saved because of his feelings, but *he is still wrong!* (See 1 John 5:13; 2:3-4).

Yes, *wrong is always wrong* regardless of what a person thinks.

(To be continued) (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

The aforementioned men are spoken of specifically as being righteous. Others were righteous that are not specifically mentioned as such.

II. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF FAITHFUL MEN (in addition to those mentioned in connection with those men listed). *FAITHFUL MEN:*

A. *Will not lie.* Proverbs 14:5 says: "A **faithful witness will not lie.**" You can depend upon a *faithful man* to tell the truth. He will not lie!

B. *Will teach others.* Paul said to Timothy: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**" (2 Tim. 2:2). NOTE: Men who are *faithful* to the Lord will endeavor to teach others the truth.

C. *Will be faithful in small things.* Luke 16:10 says: **He that is faithful is that which is least is**

faithful also in much..." (Also read Mt. 25:21,23; 3 John 5).

D. *Will Abound with blessings.* Solomon said: "A **faithful man shall abound with blessings...**" (Proverbs 28:20). In Mt. 6:33 Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (food, drink, clothing - CRS) shall be added unto you."

To be A Christian and *faithfully serve the Lord one must have enough faith in God to obey His Word.* (See James 2:14-26; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 2:10).

Are you a *faithful* man (or woman)? If you are not you can be. Do you want to be a *faithful* person? If so, begin today to learn and obey!

NOTICE: A bound volume (last 9 years) of *THE INSTRUCTOR* should soon be available. Want one?

GOSPEL MEETINGS

EAST ALBERTVILLE---APRIL 9-14, 2000 at 7:00 PM except on Sunday. There will be a different speaker in each service. Please make plans to be with us and tell others!

SENTENCE SERMONS

An upright man can never be a downright failure.

* * * * *

To be sure of the crown, we must not become weary of the cross.

* * * * *

To be safe in following our conscience, we must allow God's Word to guide it.

* * * * *

Man did not come from the monkey, but many people have gone to the dogs.

* * * * *

The world is too "churchy" (too many churches) and the church is too worldly.

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