

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 5

AUGUST, 1968

Number 8

HOW MANY CHURCHES DID CHRIST BUILD?

"How many churches did Christ build?" is a question in some circles with as many answers as man has been able to devise. Man is not always the best source of information. Man may be called upon to testify to most anything. However, there is one witness on whom we may rely: God, His Word. Just how many churches does God's Word say He built?

Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18). The Jews, when speaking of the same thing, referred to it as a sect. "For as concerning this sect, we know that every it is spoken against." (Acts 28:22). A sect is a body of persons adhering to a particular religious faith, sometimes a party regarded as deviating from the general religious traditions. His church is a body of people banded together by a common belief: the divinity of Jesus, that He is the Son of God. The great body of Jews rejected the divinity of Jesus, thus referred to His church, His body of disciples, as a sect.

"So we being many, are one body in Christ." (Rom. 12:4-5) And "he is the head of the body, the church." (Col. 1:18). These statements were

made to those who believe in the divinity of Jesus.

These believers were referred to as a building (1 Cor. 3:9), the reason being "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master-builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3:10-11).

Paul said again, "For I determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2). As long as this is preached, men believe it, and are obedient unto His commands, they are builded on that foundation, or constitute the building. The house is the church. (1 Timothy 3:15).

When nothing else is preached there can be but one body, as the apostle says in Eph. 4:4. We have noticed that the body is the church, and Christ is its head. For there to be more than one body there must be something else preached, believed, and obeyed. As long as Christ is preached, men be-

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Alabama 35950.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1003 Baltimore Ave., Albertville, Ala. 35950.

Editorial . . .

The Importance of Truth

We are told that "the law was given by Moses, but TRUTH and grace came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17). There is much teaching done but very little truth is being taught. Let us consider some things about the truth as taught in God's Word.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

We know that Jewish fables and the commandments of men do not constitute the truth because the Apostle Paul says in Titus 1:14 "not giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men, that TURN FROM THE TRUTH." We also learn that worship is vain when after the doctrines and commandments of men." (See Matt. 15:9). Jesus in his prayer to the Father said: "Sanctify them through thy truth: THY WORD IS TRUTH." (John 17:17). Mr. Cruden defines TRUTH as "the true doctrine of the gospel." We must conclude that God's Word, when rightly divided, is the TRUTH that we must believe and obey today.

WHY IS TRUTH IMPORTANT?

Truth is very important because:

1. IT MAKES US FREE. In John 8:32 Jesus said: "And ye shall know

the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Truth, when known, will liberate us from superstition, the ignorance of sin, the love of sin, the practice of sin, and the wages of sin.

2. IT SANCTIFIES. Jesus said in his prayer in John 17:17; "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." TO SANCTIFY means to dedicate; to set aside for holy uses; to make holy. Our dedication to God's service, or our being made holy and being set aside for holy uses is accomplished by the truth, which is God's Word.

3. IT PURIFIES. In 1 Peter 1:22 Peter said: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth . . ." We learn from Acts 15:9 that our hearts are purified by faith . . . since faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17), we must hear the truth, believe the truth, and obey the truth in order for our souls or hearts to be purified. There is no other way.

4. IT SAVES. We learn from Romans 1:16 that the gospel (which is truth) is God's power unto salvation. James says in James 1:21; "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." The truth must be believed and obeyed in order for us to be saved by it. Jesus said; "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:16).

5. IT WILL JUDGE US. In John 12:48 Jesus said: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my word, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." The Word of Christ is the TRUTH by which we shall be judged in the last day. Whether we receive or reject the truth, it will

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)
**HOW MANY CHURCHES DID
CHRIST BUILD?**

lieve it, and obey His law of induction into that body, they are one body, and it would be impossible to be more.

Belief in the divinity of Jesus Christ gives us hope in the promises which He made. We have only one hope. That hope is anchored in that which is within the veil, into heaven itself. We have only one hope, a hope of life after awhile. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling." There can be no more bodies than hopes.

True, there are many churches in the world today. There are many different seeds being planted. Each seed brings forth after its kind. Christ gave only one seed, the Word of God. When something other than the church of Christ is produced some seed other than the Word of God has been planted. Jesus said, "I will build my church," not churches. All of His followers are in one body.

There is but one house, one body, or one church which was built by Jesus. He only promised to build one. "Upon this rock I will build my church." It's His body, His bride, and as the church is subject unto Christ, so must the wife be to her husband. Christ is not a bigamist. He has only one bride. John the Baptist said in John 3:29, "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled."

Friends, do not be deceived, the Lord built only one church.

—Lowell Head in
CHRISTIAN APPEAL

(Continued from page 2)
**THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH
Cont'd**

stand forever and we must face it in judgment. If we have spurned the Lord's invitation to obey the truth, we will stand condemned and thus lost forever. Our eternal destiny will be the lake of fire and brimstone where the devil and all the wicked will be cast to be tormented.

Yes, truth is indeed the pearl of great price. We should be willing to pay whatever the cost may be that we might buy it, and even then it will be the greatest "bargain" of our lives. As the wise man said; "BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT."

Are you willing to pay the price in order to receive the truth? Do not be deceived by cunning craftiness and the sleight of men who lie in wait to deceive, but 'try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets have gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1).

(CRS)

Working For The Devil

A mill manufacturing war goods back during World War II put the following sign over the gate: When you lay out, you are working for Hitler." No one could have successfully denied this.

Applying this principle to the church the sign might be made to read: "When you stay away from the meetings of the church, you are working for the devil." Do you remember Matt. 12:30 which says: "He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad"?

The devil has some workers among God's children! You may not believe this is true, but with a little serious thinking you will. Let all cease working for Satan and labor diligently in the services of the Lord. We will be

(Continued on page 4)

What It Means To Be A Preacher

Have you ever tried preaching 104 sermons per year to the same congregation? Have you ever tried to get along with one hundred people and yet please the Lord? Did you ever try to encourage Bible study when many stayed at home? Have you ever pondered over a way to move people to assemble at every service? Did you ever spend hours each week in preparation of lessons and at least an hour and a half to deliver them and feel that little was accomplished? Have you ever tried to love when others hate, or praise when some condemn? Have you ever tried to bind up a broken heart or re-establish a divided home? Did you ever pour out every energy to convert a soul and get no response? If not, you cannot know what it means to be a preacher.

—“THE LEAVENWORTH LEADER”

DANGER

Dr. Richard Overholt, a Boston chest surgeon, says that long use of tobacco takes as much as 8 or 9 years off the average life span. In his view, smoking is more of a menace to health than radio-active fall-out. Dr. Overholt is professor of surgery at Tufts College, Medford, Massachusetts.

—J. L. Adams, Sr. in THE WORD AND WORK

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above short article was written at least 7 or 8 years ago.

(Continued from page 3)

WORKING FOR THE DEVIL

looking for you at all three meetings of the church during this week. Will you be present?

—Selected via GOSPEL MINUTES

Sentence Sermons

Children have more need of models than of critics.

A wide awake pigmy is to be preferred above a sleeping giant.

True education makes a person aware of the fact that he has a soul that needs saving, and then tells him how this can be accomplished.

Many people evidently do not enjoy coming to worship God; they are so late in coming, so early in leaving, and so bored while they are here!

If you cannot be a Christian in what you do, then don't do it!

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1003 Baltimore Ave.
Albertville, Ala. 35950

Entered as second-class matter at
Albertville, Ala.