

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for corection, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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RELIGIOUS LIES

The Bible not only speaks of the truth, and what it will do for me, but it speaks also of the opposite of truth, and tells me what will happen if I believe, love, and obey that which is false. "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men . . . Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind, if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matt. 15:7-14). Paul declares that if any man should preach any gospel than that which had been preached by the apostles," let him be accursed." (Gal. 1:8-9). He also says that those who believe a lie shall "be damned." (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

TRUTH VERSUS A LIE

Jesus declared that the word of God "is truth" (John 17:17), and also stated that the Holy Spirit when he came would guide the apostles "into all truth." The Spirit did come, and he did guide the apostles into the writing of the New Testament. This book contains all the truth from God to man in this Christian dispensation. Peter declared, "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21).

The opposite of the truth is a lie. Anything

that is not truth is a lie. Since God's word contains all truth in religion, we must conclude that anything in religion that is not taught in God's word is not the truth; therefore, it must be a lie.

ONCE IN GRACE, ALWAYS IN GRACE

Many denominations teach that after a man becomes a child of God, he cannot cease to be acceptable in God's sight. If a man is truly converted to the Lord, they say, he cannot then ever fall from the grace of God, but is certain to be saved eternally. This doctrine is known as the impossibility of apostasy.

In contrast to this popular doctrine of today, consider three statements from the Bible. First Paul said, "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (1 Cor. 10:12). Peter warns his beloved brethren to "beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness." (2 Peter 3:17). And the third statement is the one made by Paul when he says that he was careful to keep under his body, "and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." (1 Cor. 9:27). If the apostle Paul could have fallen from grace—if, after he became a Christian, he could have sinned so grievously as to have become a "castaway,"

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Editorial — — —

WISDOM FROM ABOVE (NO. 2)

James 3:17 says: "**But THE WISDOM THAT IS FROM ABOVE is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.**"

In our study last month, we suggested that we need "the knowledge and practice of the requisites for godly and upright living" which is **wisdom that is from above**. We also showed **the wisdom that is from above IS FIRST PURE, then PEACEABLE, GENTLE and EASY TO BE ENTREATED.**

In this article I want to resume the study concerning **the wisdom that is from above** by stating that **it is also**

FULL OF MERCY

Those who are directed by the wisdom from above are "**full of mercy.**" They are filled with thoughts and emotions of "**mercy and kindness or good will towards the miserable and afflicted, joined with a desire to relieve them.**" (See THAYER'S LEXICON, p 203). If we are led by the wisdom that is from above we pity others who are afflicted and those who are lost. Our hearts are compassionate toward them.

Only those who are merciful will obtain mercy. Jesus said: "**Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.**" (Matthew 5:7).

The Master also said: "**Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.**" (Luke 6:36).

The Psalmist said that "**Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**" (Psalms 85:10). **Mercy and truth** are close companions. Each one of us should desire to have **mercy and truth** as well as **righteousness and peace.**

Those who are merciful not only help others, but are richly rewarded themselves!

FULL OF GOOD FRUITS

Not only fruits, but "**good fruits**" are produced by those who possess and are influenced by "**the wisdom that is from above.**" Each person produces fruit. Some people produce good fruit and others produce evil fruit. Jesus said: "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that **beareth fruit**, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit . . . Herein is my Father glorified, **that ye bear much fruit**, so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:2-8). He also said: "Every tree that bringeth not forth **good fruit** is hewn down, and cast into the fire." (Matthew 7:17). It is obvious from the reading of these passages that **Christians must bear much good fruit** in order to "**be**" true disciples and to glorify the Father who is in heaven.

We should bring forth the fruit of the Spirit which is "**love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.**" (Cf. Galatians 5:22-23). We should be "**full of goodness**" and "good works" and bring forth fruit "**with patience**" unto righteousness and "**life eternal.**" If you are barren, you have no hope of eternal salvation.

WITHOUT PARTIALITY

Stability and fairness are characteristics of one who is a possessor of the wisdom that is from above. Such a one will not waver between right and wrong. He will not be uncertain or undecided about good and evil or truth and error. He will not wrangle in an effort to justify the wicked. Neither will he make a difference between person and person and grant favoritism for carnal reasons.

Christians are to treat others like they desire to be treated themselves. Christians will not stand in "the valley of indecision" when principles of truth, integrity and morality are involved. Their personal likes or dislikes or preferences will not be the determining factors in deciding issues and

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settling problems. God's will as revealed in the NEW TESTAMENT OF JESUS CHRIST will be the standard by which issues are decided and problems are settled. If you are not **"without partiality,"** you do not possess the wisdom that is from above.

WITHOUT HYPOCRISY

Hypocrites are not directed by "the wisdom that is from above" because that "wisdom" is "without hypocrisy." Hypocrisy is dissimulation. It is pretence. One who practices hypocrisy is feigning. He is "showy" but insincere. His religion is an empty display. Although he feigns faith, his heart is not right with God. He pretends to be living godly, but he does not practice principles of truth and holiness. The hypocrite endeavors to hide his sins by condemning some who are righteous while affecting love and flattering others who are endeavoring to serve God. His hypocrisy may cause many who are "righteous" to distrust and lose confidence in one another. He gloats when such is the case.

He who is destitute of "the wisdom that is from above" may insist upon observing the outward acts of worship and service to God in an effort to cover his own lack of inward purity. Hypocrites are ready to manifest a form of godliness, but by their actions they deny the power thereof. Instead of serving God **"with singleness of heart,"** service is lacking unless it can be seen of men.

According to Alexander Cruden, **hypocrisy "turns the means of salvation into poison; for the frequent exercise of religious duties, which is the means to sanctify others, confirms and hardens hypocrites."** (CRUDEN'S UNABRIDGED CONCORDANCE, p. 246). He also says that **"the effectual means to cure it, is a steadfast belief in the pure and all-seeing eye of God; who sees sin where ever it is, and will bring it into judgment."**

Positively, **"the wisdom that is from above"** is first PURE, the PEACEABLE, GENTLE, COMPLIANT (easy to be entreated), MERCIFUL and FULL OF GOOD FRUITS! Unless we are pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, merciful and full of good fruits, we are not guided by **"the wisdom that is from above!"**

Negatively, **"the wisdom that is from above"** is WITHOUT PARTIALITY, and IT IS WITHOUT HYPOCRISY! Unless we are

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how can any man teach once in grace always in grace? The man who believes or teaches such doctrine exalts himself above the peerless apostle of our Lord.

Since it is true that man can fall from grace, what shall we say of the doctrine that teaches that he cannot fall from grace? **It is a lie.** And Paul said that those who believe a lie shall be damned. Christ said that those who follow the blind shall fall into the ditch with them.

BAPTISM NOT ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

Most religious leaders declare that baptism is not for the remission of sins, and that it has nothing to do with the salvation of man's soul. Many preachers preach this, and many people believe it.

But Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). When Ananias, a gospel preacher, found Saul of Tarsus, who had been a penitent believer in Christ for three days, he told him to arise and be baptized and wash away his sins. (Acts 22:16). Saul did arise and was baptized immediately. And Peter says that baptism saves us. (1 Peter 3:21).

In view of these passages, what shall we say of the religious doctrine that teaches that baptism is **not** for the remissions of sins, and that it does **not** wash away sins, and that it does **not** save. **That doctrine is a lie.** And Paul said those who believe a lie shall "be damned."

SAVED BY FAITH ALONE

Another very important doctrine is that which teaches that man can be saved by faith alone. Many times when preachers conclude their radio sermons you will hear them tell people listening in to simply

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without partiality (unwavering) and without hypocrisy, we are not directed by **"the wisdom that is from above!"**

Please remember that if we are not guided by the wisdom from above, it is certain that we are influenced by the wisdom that **"is earthly, sensual and devilish!"**

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believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and accept him as their personal Saviour and all their sins will be forgiven immediately, and they shall become children of God that very instant.

But James said, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?" Then in the same chapter he answers the question he raised, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." (James 2:21). He argues from the case of Abraham, showing that Abraham's faith was made perfect by works, and goes on to say positively that man is not justified by faith only.

In light of James' declaration, what shall be said of the doctrine of salvation by faith only? **It is a lie.** And the man who believes a lie shall be damned. Christ said he would fall into the ditch with his blind guide.

MY RESPONSIBILITY

The Bible teaches the result of believing of lie as plainly as it teaches the result of believing the truth. To believe and obey the truth will bring eternal salvation. To believe and obey a lie will result in eternal damnation. It is my duty, and duty of every Christian, to warn people of the religious

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We still haven't receive **any word whatever** from either **Albert Hill** or the "**elders**" of the **West Hobbs Street Church** in Athens, Alabama as to when we will have the debate they agreed to participate in. Remember it has been more than **two years** since they **promised**, yes, **promised**, and we thought, sincerely, to re-schedule the debate in a short time.

We are still waiting for **Albert Hill** and the "**elders**" to respond to our constant urging that they keep their word. The integrity of these men is at stake.

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lies that are abroad in the land. It is only by their obedience to the truth that men can hope for everlasting life. Error and falsehood cannot save them. Religious lies will condemn their souls to eternal hell. It is my responsibility as a Christian to do everything within my power to warn men and persuade them to obey only the truth. —Morton T. Utley in ANCIENT LANDMARKS

JEREMIAH SAID TO HANANIAH

"The Lord hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie."
(Jeremiah 28:15)

Sentence Sermons

The thing most needed in the American home today is the **family**.

Popularity comes from pleasing people, but greatness comes from pleasing God.

Some people read just enough to stay misinformed.

The best thing parents can spend on their children is **time**—not money.

Appreciation is one of the rarest, but also one of the most beautiful virtues.

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