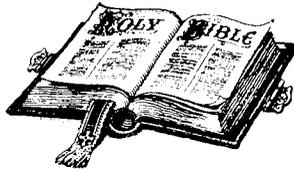


# THE INSTRUCTOR



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

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## THE SEVERITY OF GOD

It is in man's best interest to know about God. He is the one "with whom we have to do." (Heb. 4:13) Jesus prayed that men might know God. (John 17:3). God is both good and severe. (Rom. 11:22).

God has abundantly exemplified his severity in his word. He was good in giving Adam and Eve wonderful things to enjoy in the garden, (Gen. 2:7-9), but as he had forewarned, he was severe when they disobeyed. (Gen. 3:16-24). God was good to Moses and Aaron, (Ex. 3:27-31), but severe when they failed to sanctify him at the waters of Meribah. (Num. 20:12). God dealt in fury against the heathen when their cup of iniquity was full. They were defiled by their immoralities and the land itself vomited out her inhabitants. (Lev. 18:20-30).

All those things were written that we might profit and take heed. God is a God to be revered and feared. The whole duty of man is to fear him and keep his commandments. (Eccl. 12:13). Jesus solemnly warned us to fear God. (Luke 12:4-5). Those that fear him and work righteousness are the ones accepted with him. (Acts 10:34-35). Thus, "Fear God." (1 Pet. 2:17).

I once worked with a man that didn't believe in eternal hell. He said, "I wouldn't take my son and cast him into a burning fire, and it is wrong to think that God will do

that to men." I answered, "What we would or wouldn't do has no bearing on what God will do. He has stated that he will do it to the disobedient and we need to respect what he says."

There is no fear of God in the hearts of men today. Many live in hope of somehow getting by at the judgment. They have ignored the severity of God as revealed in his word and have deceived themselves into thinking that God is only a God of love and mercy and, thus, they continue to live a life of religious error and sin. They are wilfully ignorant of the fact that God's mercy will be only on those that fear him. (Luke 1:50).

Just as the reward will be great, the punishment will be great. If we can't trust that the punishment will be great, neither could we trust that the reward will be great for the same God is author of both. The severity of God ought to compel us to a faithful service.

—David J. Riggs

### HOW TRUE, HOW TRUE!

It isn't the things that go in one ear and out the other that hurt, as much as the things that go in one ear and get all mixed up before slipping out of the mouth.

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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commandments of men, that turn from the truth." We learn from Matthew 15:7-9 that worship is in vain when one follows the teachings of men. Error damns but truth frees. Jesus said: "**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" (John 8:32).

3. BY PRAYING THROUGH. Although many preachers offer salvation to those who will "pray through," God has not made such a promise. Those who offer such are presumptuous. They promise salvation to those who pray although God has not promised such. No Scripture indicates that an alien sinner can be saved by praying. But to the contrary Peter says: "**For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.**" Please read and study John 9:31 and 1 John 3:22. God's children are instructed to pray, but there is no passage in God's Word where alien sinners are promised salvation because they pray. Read and ponder what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21.

## Editorial . . . .

### HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Since a person must be a Christian in order to enjoy genuine happiness here and to be saved eternally in heaven, let us consider, in the light of God's revelation as contained in the Scriptures, the question: **HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN? Please consider the fact that one does not become a Christian:**

1. BY MORALITY ALONE. If one's morality is sufficient to make him a Christian, then Jesus died in vain. His death was not necessary. We could have been saved without his blood. Yet we learn from Hebrews 2:9 that he "**tasted death for every man.**" We are told in Matthew 26:28 that his blood was shed "**for many for the remission of sins.**" If salvation is by morality alone, then it is not **by grace through faith** as Paul declared in Ephesians 2:8-9. Certainly one must live right morally if he would follow Christ. (See Titus 2:11-14). However, one may be morally good, as was Cornelius, and still be in a lost condition. (See Acts 10:1-6; 10:34-35; 11:14-18).

2. BY THE CREEDS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN. In Titus 1:14 the apostle Paul said: "**Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and**

4. BY FEELINGS. Feelings within and of themselves do not produce salvation nor make one a Christian. Feelings are the result of one's belief. They may be deceptive. They neither save us nor assure us of salvation. John tells us that **we can know we have eternal life by the things written.** (See 1 John 5:13). This should settle the matter once and for all. It is certainly possible for one to believe a lie and feel like he is saved. In the last day, your feelings will not be the standard of judgment by which you will be judged. God's Word will be the standard. (See John 12:48).

5. BY JOINING A DENOMINATION. To become a Christian, **one must obey Christ,** (see John 14:6, Matthew 7:21), but **one must obey human wisdom** in order to become a member of any denomination. When one is saved, he is added to the **church** (which is not a denomination) by the Lord. (See Acts 2:47).

6. BY FAITH ONLY. Sinners are justified by faith, (according to Romans 5:1), but "**not by faith only,**" (according to James 2:24). If **faith only** produced Christians, then the devils would be Christians because James 2:19 says that "**the devils believe and tremble.**" If salvation were by faith only, then that would eliminate grace,

*(continued on page 3)*

# METHODIST BAPTISM *vs.* BIBLE BAPTISM

In the DISCIPLINE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, 1948 edition, page 470-471, we have the following instruction: "Let every adult person, and the parents of every child to be baptized, have the choice of sprinkling, pouring, or immersion."

The Methodist Discipline gives a choice of three actions: **sprinkling**, **pouring**, or **immersion**. The word of God gives no such choice. The action is stated in the very word "baptize." This word always carries the idea of immersion, and should have been so translated. Besides this, the description of this action is given in the word "buried." "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death . . ." (Rom. 6:3-4) "Buried with him in baptism . . ." (Col. 2:12). The Methodist Discipline is opposed to the word of God on this point.

Furthermore, the parents make the choice for the child. No such idea is anywhere taught in the Book of God. Individuals who are to obey God always exercise their own will, and if they do not have such power, they are not addressed by the Spirit of God.

On page 471 the minister is to address the parents or sponsors as follows: "Dearly beloved, forasmuch as this child is now presented by you for Christian Baptism, and is thus consecrated to God and to his Church, it is your part and duty to see that he be taught, as soon as he shall be able to learn, the meaning and purpose of this holy Sacrament; that he be instructed in the principles of our holy faith and the nature of the Christian life . . ."

The Methodist Discipline opposes the word of God in bringing infants to God before they have learned of the Father. Jesus said, "Every man therefore that hath heard, and **hath learned** of the Father, cometh unto me." (John 6:45). He does not teach that they come unto him and later learn of him. The Methodist Discipline does teach this.

In addition to this the Discipline reverses the order of faith and baptism as taught in the word of God. It is the fundamental teaching of the Methodist Church that one is saved by **faith only**. In Article IX, paragraph 69, page 27 we read: "We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort." But they baptize infants without faith on their part. The Bible teaches that one cannot please God without faith. (Hebrews 11:6). If there ever was a work of merit (without faith) it is infant baptism.

Jesus stated in the commission as recorded in Matthew: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Matt. 28:19). Jesus said "Teach, Baptize, Teach." The Methodist Discipline says "Baptize and Teach." Jesus said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). The Methodist Discipline teaches to "sprinkle" the infant and then teach him to believe the word of God. This is one of the many things that makes the Methodist Church a work of man and not of God. It teaches the doctrines of men, which make void the commandments of God. (Matt. 15:1-9). It teaches salvation by **faith only** and practices salvation by **works only** (infant baptism without faith on the part of the one baptized). One who follows the Methodist Discipline cannot follow the word of God, and, by the same token, one who follows the word of God cannot follow the Methodist Discipline.

—H. E. Phillips in SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES, August, 1962.

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(continued from page 2)

## HOW DOES ONE BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

repentance, confession, baptism, etc. But according to the Scriptures, each of these are essential as well as faith.

To be saved, an alien sinner must hear the gospel, believe it, repent of sins, confess faith in Christ as God's Son, and be baptized "for the remission of sins." (See Rom. 10:13-17; 10:9; Acts 2:39; Mk. 16:15-16). When one thus obeys the gospel, he is washed in and cleansed by the blood of Christ. By so doing he is born again and thus becomes a child of God; he becomes a Christian!

(CRS)

# INVEST IN HEAVEN

When a man starts to purchase a piece of property he wants to be sure there is no flaw in the deed. Therefore, he employs an attorney to go over the deed very carefully. If the attorney finds a flaw he will not invest his money in the property, yet this same man will make no attempt to investigate religious matters to be sure that he is right—to be sure he is investing in a home for his soul in heaven.

The majority of the people today think just as long as you are honest and sincere in religious matters, you are pleasing to God. While honesty and sincerity are necessary, they do not determine our salvation. Jesus said, **“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”** (John 8:32). **“Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.”** (Proverbs 23:23). Since the TRUTH makes free, and we should pay any price to obtain it, after it is obtained we should not sell it or forsake it for any price.

Why don't you investigate to be sure that you are walking in the TRUTH? The apostle Paul said people would **“perish, because they received not the LOVE of the TRUTH, that they might be saved.”** (2 Thessalonians *(Continued in right column)*)

## A GOOD THOUGHT

Countless others may have seen the Star of Bethlehem, but it is related in the Bible that only the wise men followed it until it led them to the stable of the lowly inn where they found the new-born Christ. **Wise men follow the Light!**

2:10).

Therefore, we MUST love and obey the TRUTH to be saved. To accept and obey error or false doctrine is but to be lost forever in a devil's hell!

—Gilbert W. Holt in LIGHT

## “Keep Me Reasonably Sweet”

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and someday will be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everyone's affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details—give me wings to get to the point!

I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of the pains of others. Help me to endure them with patience, but seal my lips of my own aches and pains. They are increasing and my love of telling them is becoming sweeter as the years go by.

Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody. Make me helpful, but not bossy.

With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

—Author unknown but was taken from THE WAY, 11/24/77

## Sentence Sermons

Most troubles, like book agents, do not enter our houses except by invitation.

Some men learn from their experiences, others never recover from them.

Flattery is like perfume; the idea is to smell it, not to swallow it.

We are all manufacturers: we are either making good, making trouble or making excuses.

Prejudice is a blindfold that keeps us in the dark.

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