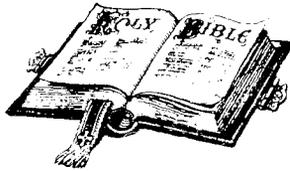


THE INSTRUCTOR



“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 18

AUGUST, 1981

Number 8

“CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?”

Every person with a sense of spiritual values is interested in the answer to this question. One of the ways in which Satan operates to the discouragement, and ultimate destruction of some of the offspring of God is to raise doubts and fears about their souls' safety. It is not unusual that this question should be asked.

To this question, God's Word answers, "Yes." The Father has not left His children to wonder in fear as to the condition of their souls before Him. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:16-17).

From the testimony of **two witnesses**, it may be ascertained whether or not one is a child, and thus an heir, of God. The two who give testimony are God's, and the spirit of an individual. Notice that God's Spirit "beareth witness **with** our spirit." Rather than the Spirit bearing witness **to** our spirit (in which case there would be only one witness), God's Spirit testifies **with** our spirit. And from the testimony given by these two witnesses, we know either that we are, or are not, the children of God.

Quite often a person will depend upon his

feelings to assure him that he is redeemed. And when his feelings change, then he begins to doubt his salvation. However, this is not the Bible basis of the evidence of pardon. First, because forgiveness of sins takes place in the mind of God, not in our bodily feelings. "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, this is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." (Hebrews 10:15-17).

Since sins are remembered, or removed from, in the mind of God, one needs to know what conditions God has promised to forget sins. And if he has met these conditions, then he will have the promise of God that God's mind is clear from holding him henceforth guilty. "He is faithful that promised." (Hebrews 10:23). Thus, one might be led by his feelings to conclude that he was God's child, when in reality, God still remembered his sins and iniquities. Salvation takes place, not in our breasts, but in God's mind. Second, feelings are based upon testimony — which may, or may not be correct. If we are misled by false

(Continued on Page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

CAROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

Although "Hollywood" has made light of God's law on marriage (and continues to do so with the support of some who claim to be Christians) and has glamorized divorce, those who are truly Christians are deeply concerned about this matter and plead with all to not be conformed to the world, but to respect and obey God's law relative to marriage and divorce. The divorce rate in this country is alarming. It continues to grow. A lack of respect for God's will relative to marriage is manifested by many people. Let us consider some Scriptural facts concerning marriage and divorce. As you read the following statements please keep in mind that you are reading the word of God.

1. Genesis 2:24 says: "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." In Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus said: "... Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined

together, let not man put asunder."

2. Hebrews 13:4 says: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." OBSERVATION: From the preceding Scriptures it is evident that God ordained marriage. It is God's will that men and women (who are qualified to do so) marry.

3. Mark 10:11-12 says: "... whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

4. Luke 16:18 says: "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

5. Matthew 19:9 says: "... whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

6. Matthew 5:32 says: "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saying for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

7. Romans 7:1-13 says: "... For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."

8. I Corinthians 7:39 says: "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord."

9. I Corinthians 7:10-11 says: "... Let not the wife depart from her husband; But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife."

10. Colossians 3:18-19 says: "Wives,
(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 1)

"CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?"

testimony, our feelings will react nonetheless, according to the erroneous testimony. It was in this wise that Jacob was led to grieve exceedingly. Believing his son, Joseph, to be dead because of the misinformation gained from his sons, Jacob "rent his clothes . . . and mourned for his son." (Gen. 37:34). He was sincere in the way he felt, but was sincerely misled! His feeling that Joseph had been devoured by an animal did not alter the actual circumstances. So it is today. An individual assured by some religious teacher that he has been saved, and believing this erroneous testimony, will feel good as a result of what he believes. But he has believed a falsehood. God yet remembers his sins. And unless he learns differently, he may go through life deceived. Yet, this same person may later come to doubt whether he was saved or not. And with the change in his beliefs, His feelings undergo a corresponding change — since he feels as he believes.

One may ask another, "How do you know that you are saved?" "By the way that I feel," he replies. "How do you feel?" He answers, "I feel good." "But," the querist persists, "Why do you feel good?" Again the reply, "Because I know that I am saved." This common approach to this vital question of the evidence of pardon is in reality but arguing in a circle. It proves nothing. It certainly can not demonstrate in the light of God's Word whether one has been saved or not. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Prov. 14:12; cf. 16:25).

Can one know then that he is God's child? Yes, two witnesses — God's Spirit and man's spirit — testify together to the assurance that one is a child of God. It is not the case of one witness, God's Spirit, testifying alone to man. If then the evidence of pardon depends upon the agreement of the witness of both the spirit of man, and the Spirit of God, in what manner or way does God's Spirit testify? In dreams? Visions? Still small voices?

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly ..." (1 Timothy 4:1). That which is to be understood from the Spirit's testimony comes from what God's Spirit has plainly said. But again, **how** does the Spirit speak? As His return to heaven approached, Jesus

(Continued in Right Column)

taught His apostles that the Spirit would be sent to them as a Comforter, Teacher, Revelator, and Witness: "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." (John 15:26). "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove, "convict," A.S.V. the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment . . . Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come." (John 16:7-8, 13). These statements by Jesus indicate that the Spirit would testify after His departure.

This witness of the Spirit was first delivered on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2). On that day, sinners were convicted of sin, of righteousness, and judgment, by the Spirit's testimony. (v. 37). And how was this testimony delivered? Through the word preached by the inspired apostles. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (v. 4). "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words . . . Ye men of Israel, hear these words . . . Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you . . . Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (vv. 14, 22,

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 2)

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

CONCLUSION: God ordained marriage. He intended that one man marry one woman. Marriage was to last till death. If a man divorces his wife (or vice versa) he violates God's law. The only reason that man can divorce his wife and marry another is fornication. Man should love his wife even as his own body. Wives should submit to their husbands. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

(CRS)

(Continued from Page 3)

"CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?"

29, 37). Herein we hear the testimony of the Holy Spirit, **in the words of the inspired apostles**. This accurately fulfilled Jesus' promise to them, "For it is not ye that speak, but the **Spirit** of your Father which **speaketh in you.**" (Matthew 10:20). Such was characteristic also of the inspired writers of the Old Testament. The writer of Hebrews quotes from the pen of Jeremiah (Heb. 10:15-17; cf. Jer. 31: 31ff), and in doing so, comments, "Whereof the **Holy Ghost** also is **a witness** to us: for after that he had **said** before ..." How did the Spirit witness? Through the writing of Jeremiah. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21). Therefore through the writings of the inspired men of the New Testament, the Holy Spirit bears witness which has to do with our assurance of our salvation. But man's spirit must also offer testimony **with** God's Spirit. How does the spirit of man do this?

The spirit of man bears witness as to what the individual has, or has not, done. This is a matter of consciousness known only to the person's own spirit. "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?" (1 Cor. 2:11).

As a result, when God's Spirit testifies in the inspired writings as to what man must

(Continued in Right Column)

(Continued from Left Column)

"CAN I KNOW THAT I AM SAVED?"

do in order to receive God's grace, and the spirit of the individual testifies that he has met these conditions of grace, the joint testimony of the two witnesses assures the person of his salvation. This assurance brings hope and joy. Do you have this assurance?

--**Ted Kell** in **SOWING SEED**, May, 1961

OUT OF THIS LIFE

Out of this life I'm unable to take
Things of silver or gold I make.
All that I cherish and hoard away,
After I leave, on earth must stay.
All that I gather, and all that I keep,
I must leave behind when I fall
asleep.

And I wonder often what I shall own,
In that other life, when I pass alone,
What shall they find and what shall
they see
In the soul that answers the call for
me?

Shall the great judge learn, when my
task is through,
That my spirit has gathered some
riches, too?

Or shall at the last it be mine to find,
That all that I'd worked for I'd left
behind?

--Author Unknown

Sentence Sermons

If you tell a lie big enough, loud enough and often enough, many will believe it.

To profit from good advise requires more wisdom than to give it.

Tact is the ability to hammer home a point without hitting the other fellow on the head.

The person who lives for self alone usually dies that way.

A wise person doesn't tell everything he knows, but he knows everything he tells.

Use friendship as a drawing account if you wish, but don't forget the deposits.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, AL 35950