

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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WHICH WAY ARE WE HEADED?

If we are trying to go to heaven and take everybody with us we can, we will have to place truth above the desire for peace and progress.

TRUTH MUST HAVE PRIORITY OVER FRIENDSHIP. Differences are unpleasant. There is no excuse for them unless they in some way affect our reaching our destination. Truth is more important than friendship. It is not a friendly act to compromise the truth. Love for friendship demands that love of truth be put first.

TRUTH MUST HAVE PRIORITY OVER COURTESY. John sets the limitations of courtesy where truth is involved: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." (2 John 10-11.)

TRUTH MUST HAVE PRIORITY OVER PEACE, UNITY, FELLOWSHIP. Those are most desirable. We have preached millions of sermons on "Unity." It is sad we cannot enjoy more of it. But these things are results, not goals. They follow conformity to the truth as naturally as night follows day, or as water runs down hill. "If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another,..." If we get it any other way, it is not the genuine article. Would it not be wiser to preach more on loyalty to God and His truth, and let the

peace, unity and fellowship come in their natural order?

The notion that we should sacrifice truth to keep peace in the family and make "party" progress is equally vicious and more formidable than any false doctrine which is proclaimed. We must continue to fight error or else become a denomination, like the rest. Which shall it be—truth, or party?

—W. E. Brightwell via
THE SHIVELY MESSENGER

A Baptist On Baptism

"Do not, I charge you, neglect one-half of the command! The gospel commission which we have received is this: 'Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.' That is the message as we find it, we did not insert the clause concerning baptism, neither dare we leave it out, or advise you to neglect it. I give you the very words of the Saviour. Do not therefore, divide the gospel command in order to throw half of it behind your back, but both believe and avow your belief and be added to the church."

—Spurgeon Memorial Library,
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Editorial.....

What Is Your Attitude?

(CONCLUDED)

What a person is, what he does and his relationship with others is affected by his attitude. One's attitude will determine whether he is an asset or a liability to the cause of Jesus Christ. Many problems that arise within congregations spring from an ungodly attitude.

In our past studies in this series we have discussed **God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Scripture, the church, the gospel, the truth and preachers of truth, false doctrines and false teachers and the attitude that we should have toward each.** Let us further examine our attitude.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIANS?

Those who are familiar with God's Word know that Christians **must not HATE ONE ANOTHER.** "He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now," John declared, (1 John 2:9), and he "walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." (1 John 2:11). John also tells us that "if any man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar...." (1 John 4:20). We learn from 1 John 3:15 that **whosoever hateth his brother is a**

murderer " If a "Christian" hates his brother, he is a liar and a murderer and is in darkness. HATRED is a work of the flesh and will lead to eternal damnation. (See Gal. 5:17-21).

LOVE is an attribute of Christians. In writing to the saints in Thessalonica Paul said: "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another." (1 Thess. 4:9). Please read carefully and consider John 13:34; 15:12, 17; 1 John 4:7, 11; 4:21 and 2 John 5.

John also tells us that "he that loveth not his brother" is not of God "for this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another." (See 1 John 2:10-11). "He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

We are to "love as brethren." (See 1 Peter 3:8). We are to "love the brotherhood." (See 1 Peter 2:17). We are to "be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love: in honour preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10). We are to "love one another with a pure heart fervently." (1 Peter. 1:22). LOVE IS KNOWN BY THE ACTION IT PROMPTS.

To Paul, despite their short comings and sinfulness, the saints at Corinth were his "beloved brethren." (See 1 Cor. 15:58). He addressed the saints at Philippi as "my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and my crown." (See Phil. 4:1). To John, Christians were his "little children," (See 1 John 2:1, 18, 28; 3:7, 18 and 5:21). The apostle Peter addressed Christians as "dearly beloved," (See 1 Peter 2:11), and referred to Paul as "our beloved brother Paul." (See 2 Pet. 3:15).

All Christians are my brethren. I should love them. I should show by my actions my love for them. Christians are the finest people on earth!

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep his commandments." (1 John 5:2).

WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN?

"The thought of foolishness is sin" according to Solomon in Prov. 24:9. The

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WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

transgression of God's law is sin. (See 1 John 3:4). "All unrighteousness is sin." (See 1 John 5:17). "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Rom. 14:23). The context of this passage indicates that a violation of one's conscience is sin. James 4:17 says, "therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." CRUDEN'S CONCORDANCE defines sin as "any thought, word, action, omission, or desire, contrary to the law of God." Sin proceeds out of the heart. (See Matt. 15:18-20). Therefore our attitude must be right or we'll be guilty of sin. **The wrong attitude is sin!**

What is your attitude toward the works of the flesh as mentioned in Gal. 5:19-21? Do you engage in them? Do you have pleasure in people who do engage in them? Do you "have fellowship" with the unfruitful works of darkness? **You should reprove them!** Do you?

What is your attitude toward the sins of the tongue such as backbiting, slandering, talebearing, whispering, murmuring, lying, railing and blasphemy? Do you practice such? Do you take pleasure in those who do practice such or do you **reprove them? You should reprove them!**

What is your attitude toward violating your conscience? When you violate your conscience **you are sinning!** It is a very serious thing to violate your conscience. Each time you violate your conscience you are "hardening" it. If you continue to do so, your conscience will be seared. It may reach a point of no return.

What is your attitude toward **adding** to God's Word? Is it "just a small thing" in your estimation? Remember, it is **sinful to add** to God's word. Do you **reprove** those who **add** to God's Word by to the work of the church? Do you **reprove** those who **add** to God's Word by getting churches to contribute from their treasuries to "sponsoring church arrangements such as the Herald of Truth" and to **human benevolent institutions** such as Childhaven and to **educational institutions** such as David Lipscomb College? Or do you take a "hands off" attitude and say, "well, it really doesn't matter?"

(Continued in next column)

Walk A Little Plainer, Daddy

Walk a little plainer, daddy,
said a little boy so frail,
I'm following in your footsteps,
and I don't want to fail.
Sometimes your steps are very plain,
sometimes they are hard to see,
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
for you are leading me.

I know that once you walked this way,
many years ago,
And what you did along the way,
I'd really like to know.
For sometimes when I am tempted,
I don't know what to do.
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
for I must follow you.

Some day when I'm grown up,
you are like I want to be,
Then I will have a little boy,
who will want to follow me.
And I would want to lead him right,
and help him to be true.
So walk a little plainer, daddy,
for we must follow you.

(Author unknown)

Continued from left column) WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE?

Do you "go along with" those who use various gimmicks in an effort to increase their attendance at their services? Or do you **reprove** them?

What is your attitude toward doing good when you have the opportunity? Do you ignore the opportunity? Do you try to justify your failure to do good by saying "I'm too busy" or "I'm not able?" Remember if you have the ability, the time and the opportunity to do good and do it not, **to you IT IS SIN!**

Dear reader, the day is far spent and night is drawing nigh. **NOW IS THE TIME TO CORRECT YOUR ATTITUDE** if it needs correcting! **TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LOATE!**

(CRS)

THE TRUTH THAT FREES

"If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32).

Unless one is made free from sin by the truth, he is a servant of sin. Paul tells us that **"the wages of sin is death."** (See Rom. 6:23).

THE TRUTH THAT FREES IS THE WORD OF GOD. In John 17:17 in His prayer to the Father, Jesus said: **"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."** Nothing short of God's word which is truth is able to free man from sin. If you desire to know the truth that is able to free from sin, you should make a diligent study of God's Word as recorded in God's Book, the Bible!

THE TRUTH THAT FREES SHOULD BE PREACHED. Paul Said: **"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."** (1 Cor. 1:21). In the great commission Jesus said: **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."** (Mk. 16:15). Paul spake **"the gospel of God with much conten-**

tion." (See 1 Thess. 2:2). He urged Timothy to **"preach the word."** (See 2 Tim. 4:2).

THE TRUTH THAT FREES SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD. Jesus said, **"and ye shall KNOW the truth."** The truth will not make free unless it is known. Some are **"ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."** (See 2 Tim. 3:7). God **"will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."** (1 Tim. 2:4). The truth was revealed to men like Paul and they wrote it down to enable us to understand it. We are exhorted to **"be not unwise, but understanding what the will of he Lord is."** (See Eph. 5:17).

THE TRUTH THAT FREES SHOULD BE RECEIVED AS THE WORD OF GOD AND BE OBEYED. Paul was thankful that the Thessalonians had received the word of God, **"not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God."** (See 1 Thess. 2:13). We learn in 1 Pet. 1:22 that **the truth must be obeyed** in order for it to purify the soul. Remember it was Jesus who said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved "**
(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

Your destiny is not determined by chance, but choice.

Some people seem to fall for everything and stand for nothing.

A man is in hot water when his tender heart becomes hard-boiled.

Self discipline is one of the foundation stones of true character.

A man who says just what he thinks should be sure he thinks before he says.

No man is strong enough to carry a grudge all of his life.

You don't need references in order to borrow trouble.

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