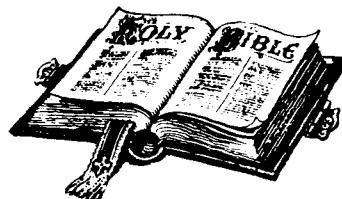


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS

"The days of our years are threescore years, and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." (Ps. 90:10.) "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (Jas. 4:14.)

These questions from the Old Testament and the New bring sharply into focus the brevity of human life. No man can read such words with any degree of comprehension without realizing how swift and how certain is the approach of death for every one of us. All our earthly hopes and ambitions, our plans, our dreams, and fondest expectations will finally come to rest beneath a little mound of dirt over which the green grass will grow for centuries after we have returned to the elements. How futile and how silly to think we can build anything that will endure on this earth!

As I write these lines, I sit beneath the shade of a mighty Douglas fir, whose towering summit seems to reach into the very heavens. Its age I can only guess, but I am certain there is not a man living on earth today who was alive when this tree began to grow. Only a few hours' drive south of here

are the giant Redwoods of California, some of which were growing when Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees, and many of which were old, old trees when Jesus wept in Gethsemane. Amid such awesome works of God, frail man seems insignificant indeed.

Yet I shall live after the tallest tree shall have long since crumbled and decayed. For by God's grace my life is not limited to the few fleeting, uncertain and often miserable years of earth. The "days of my years" may be very few, but the length of my life is beyond measure. I live for eternity, not for time. The God I serve is a God of the living, and not of the dead.

How then can I ignore God? How can I put Him out of my life? close my ears to His commands? disregard His Word and His will? What is the thinking of the man who stupidly bargains for this life at the cost of eternal life? "For what shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matt. 16:26.) It is eternally true that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth." To such a man God once said, "Thou fool this night thy soul

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

IS HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TAUGHT IN HEBREWS 13:8?

So-called Pentecostals argue that "**Hebrews 13:8 teaches that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism.**" To some of them, if a person denies that such is the teaching of Hebrews 13:8, he is guilty of flatly denying a plain teaching of God's word.

Is the argument that "**Hebrews 13:8 teaches that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism**" true? Is it OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It cannot be OF FAITH nor advocated BY FAITH unless it is taught in God's word since "**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" (See Romans 10:17).

Hebrews 13:8 says: "**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.**"

The advocates of Holy Spirit baptism for people today often contend that Jesus Christ baptized with the Holy Spirit in the first century, and since Hebrews 13:8 says that He is "**the same yesterday, and today, and forever**", He is still baptizing people with the Holy Spirit now. If He is **not** baptizing people **today** with the Holy Spirit, He is **not** the same, according to them.

Please read Hebrews 13:8 again very carefully with an earnest desire to know the truth of God and consider the following facts.

1. Hebrews 13:8 DOES NOT TEACH that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism! The idea is NOT in the passage! It appears **only** in the mind of some people! It is a figment of their imagination! It is ADDED by false teachers!

2. Hebrews 13:8 DOES NOT TEACH that believers in the first century received Holy Spirit baptism! (Of course, other passages **do teach** that SOME people in the first century did receive it. Cf. Acts 2 and Acts 10 and 11).

3. Hebrews 13:8 DOES NOT even mention Holy Spirit baptism! NOTE: The idea of Holy Spirit baptism is ADDED by false teachers! (I trust you are **not** guilty of adding such an idea to the passage.)

4. Hebrews 13:8 DOES NOT TEACH that believers today receive the Holy Spirit! It **does not teach** that **anyone ever** received the Holy Spirit! The idea of a person receiving the Holy Spirit is ADDED by false teachers! NOTE: Other passages **do teach** that all who obey God **do receive the Holy Spirit!** (See Acts 2:38-39; 5:32; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Gal. 4:6; 1 Thess. 4:8; 1 John 3:24).

5. Hebrews 13:8 DOES TEACH that Christ IS THE "**same yesterday, and today, and forever.**" It teaches that Christ IS the SAME in CHARACTER, but it does **not** teach that He is the same in law and in works or action. (Hebrews 7:12 says: "**For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.**") Consider the following facts:

(1) In the past ("yesterday") Christ created man (full-grown) from dust, was born of a virgin, walked bodily on earth among men, died on the cross, but HE IS NOT DOING THOSE THINGS NOW ("today")! NOTE: He is still the same, though, **today** that He was in time past!

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THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS

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shall be required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be?" And Jesus added His own comment to that in the statement, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." (Lk. 12:21.)

It is a calm, bright day in the late summer as these lines are written. The beautiful Willamette Valley stretches before me in seemingly unending miles. The fumbling log trucks, each with its burden of three or four giant logs, roll endlessly on the roads below. The valley is peaceful and quiet. Yet every person here is living a life that is headed toward the inevitable day of judgment. We shall stand in the presence of that eternal judge; and each of us shall be judged "out of the things which are written in the books." (Rev. 20:12.) The faithful Christian, the cynic, the scoffer, the deceitful worker, the misguided zealot, the ignorant savage shall each receive his due portion. That final reckoning cannot be evaded; it cannot be delayed. We shall all be judged.

In view of the brevity of life, and the certainty of the judgment, what manner of persons ought we to be? "Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God . . . ?" (2 Pet. 3:11, 12) are the words used by Peter to impress our responsibility.

God's plan for the redemption of the soul is simple. By the sacrifice of Christ He has made it possible for me to escape the awful punishment which is the due recompense for my sin. Believing in Christ, I turn in penitence from sin, and am buried through baptism "unto the remission of" all sins. This brings me into covenant relationship with God, and makes me a citizen in His kingdom. It then is my task to live each day in the consciousness of that relationship, to "walk worthily of the calling" wherewith I have been called.

Business ventures, family troubles,

political upheavals, personal problems — how trivial! There is one problem, and only one, before every one of us; to live a life that is pleasing to God. Whether that life is lived in riches or in poverty, in political freedom or in chains and imprisonment or in domestic felicity or in misery and loneliness, is quite unimportant. Whether one receives the adulation and praises of men or their contempt and animosity matters little. If one walks with the Lord, in the full assurance of His favor, neither the flattery of friends nor the hatred of foes will count for much. The days of our years are so few, so filled with duties and labors, that we should waste little time in thinking whether our actions are pleasing to men or not. Do they please God? That is the one and only question to be considered. If yes, then with confidence we can press on; if no, then we should tremble in terror until the situation is changed.

"What is your life?" Consider it; let God's will rule your heart, and His Word direct your ways.

— Fanning Yater Tant, "The Westview Weekly," 3-29-87

IS HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TAUGHT . . . ?

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(2) In the past Christ had twelve apostles ON EARTH, but He DOES NOT HAVE THEM NOW ON EARTH! NOTE: YET Christ is still the same!

(3) Christ IS THE SAME PERSON now as in the past, but HE IS NOT DOING THE SAME THINGS!

(4) No passage indicates that Christ is doing all the same things now that he did in the first century.

(5) It is not a question of the power of Christ, but of His will and purpose! What does God want?

(6) Christ is able to raise up from stones children to Abraham; to make tomatoes grow on peach trees; to turn ants into elephants; to turn water into wine, and to miraculously raise the dead, but it is not His will to do so!

NO, Hebrews 13:8 does not teach that believers today receive Holy Spirit baptism!

(CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS!

You are invited to attend a series of meetings in which THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST will be taught. The men we have selected to teach us and all who assemble with us are **not** great men from the standpoint of the standards of the world. They are men who have dedicated their lives to the service of God. They are concerned about doing right. They desire to teach others they way of truth and righteousness. Our meetings are scheduled to be conducted **May 29 -June 3, 1988 at 7:30 each evening** except on the Lord's Day. Here is a list of the speakers and when each will speak.

SUNDAY - 11:00 A.M. ELAM B. KUYKENDALL of Athens, AL

SUNDAY - 6:00 P.M. DOUGLAS (Hobo) EUBANKS of Athens, AL

MONDAY - 7:30 P.M. ... SAMMY BYNUM of Jacksonville, Alabama

TUESDAY - 7:30 P.M. JOEL ELLIS of Boaz, Alabama

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 P.M. ED BROWN of Birmingham, Alabama

THURSDAY - 7:30 P.M. DAVID HARWELL of Huntsville, AL

FRIDAY - 7:30 P.M. BOBBY GRAHAM of Huntsville, Alabama

EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1107 Highway 431 South

Albertville, Alabama

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

If you are not closer to heaven today than you were yesterday, you should check the road map. You may have taken a wrong turn.

* * * * *

When you are "average" you are just as close to the bottom as you are to the top.

* * * * *

We do not need better methods and more money — we need better men!

* * * * *

It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

* * * * *

If you lift others up, you must be on a higher plane.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Albertville, AL 35950