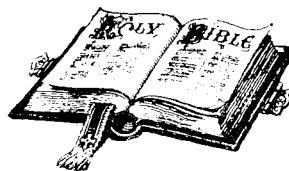


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## SALVATION BY GRACE

Although the New Testament teaches that salvation is by grace, there is much error taught concerning this subject. Many are not willing to examine and accept what the Word of God says relative to this subject.

**WHAT IS GRACE?** Vine's EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS defines the word "grace" as ". . . graciousness, loving-kindness, goodwill generally . . . divine favour." CRUDEN'S COMPLETE CONCORDANCE defines "grace" as "the free mercy of God." God's grace is His **mercy** and **favour**.

**WHAT HAS GOD'S GRACE DONE?** The grace of God has provided many (all we need) material blessings for us which sustain life. It has also provided means of our salvation. **God's grace** prompted Him to purpose and plan our redemption. (See Ephesians 2:4-10; 3:8-11). It likewise causes Him to Give His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for our transgressions. (See John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:8-10; Hebrews 2:9).

**SAVED BY GRACE!** In the latter part of Ephesians 2:5 Paul wrote: "**by grace ye are saved.**" Romans 3:24 says: "**Being justified freely by His Grace** through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus.**" We learn from Titus 2:11-12 that "**the grace of God that bringeth salvation** hath appeared to all men, teaching

us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world." Observe very carefully the fact that Paul tells us that **the grace of God that saves is the grace that teaches!** It is quite obvious that any "grace" that doesn't teach doesn't save! We must listen to what grace teaches us. In the Scriptures we have "the word of His grace, which is able to build" us up and give us "an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (See Acts 20:32). We must hear, learn, believe and obey what His grace teaches.

Although we are saved by grace, it is NOT by grace ONLY. Paul, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit, says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith . . ." (Ephesians 2:8). **Grace is God's part** (favour extended to man) and **faith is man's part** (response to God's favour). Faith is essential because it **purifies** (Acts 15:9), **justifies** (Rom. 5:1; James 2:24), and **saves**. (Ephesians 2:8; Acts 16:31).

Faith that **saves** comes by **hearing** God's Word. (Rom. 10:17). The kind of faith that saves is the faith that hears what God's grace teaches and obeys it. Jesus said: "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**" (Mark 16:16). Peter taught in Acts 2:38 that sinners should "**repent and be baptized . . .**

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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EDITOR

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6. "... Especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10).

7. It is called **the kingdom**. (See Hebrews 12:28; Col. 1:13-14; Matt. 16:18-19).

8. "But ye are a chosen generation; a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; ..." (1 Peter 2:9).

9. Locally, a plurality of churches were called "**the churches of God**", (1 Cor. 11:16), and "**the churches of Christ**." (Romans 16:16).

We should be very careful and not **denominationalize** any NAME or DESIGNATION by using it exclusively or in a denominational sense.

## THE NAME CHRISTIAN

In this age of spiritual lethargy and ignorance, we are not only pleading for the CHURCH to be called by **Scriptural names**, but we are also pleading for DISCIPLES, as individuals, to wear the **name CHRISTIAN**.

The **name CHRISTIAN** is not an Old Testament word. The Saints of the Old Testament era were never called Christians. Neither were the disciples of Christ during His personal ministry on earth. There are **only three passages** in the New Testament in which the **name CHRISTIAN** is found. Let us consider them.

1. The last part of Acts 11:26 says: "And the **disciples** were called **CHRISTIANS** first in Antioch." **Note:** This was about A.D. 41.

2. We read in Acts 26:28: "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a **CHRISTIAN**." **Note:** This was about A.D. 62.

3. In 1 Peter 4:14-16 the apostle Peter wrote: "If ye be reproached for the **name of Christ**, happy are ye; . . . Yet if any man suffer as a **CHRISTIAN**, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf (ASV says "in this name")." **Note:** This was about A.D. 60.

We learn from the above passages that **disciples should be called CHRISTIANS**, that we should persuade men to be **CHRISTIANS** and we should be willing to suffer as a **CHRISTIAN** and should glorify God in the **name of CHRIST**.

If we are **disciples of Christ**, we have no right to be called ADVENTISTS, BAPTISTS, CATHOLICS, METHODISTS, MORMONS, PENTECOSTALS or PRESBYTERIANS. All we do should be done "in the **name of the Lord Jesus Christ**." (Co. 3:17).

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## *Editorial . . .*

### OUR PLEA (No. 3)

In our past articles it was stated that we are earnestly pleading for the **restoration** of New Testament teaching, for the **unity** of all Christians, for the **Scriptures** as our standard of authority in religious matters, for the **authority of Jesus Christ**, for men to **obey Christ**, for men to have genuine **faith in God and His Son Jesus Christ**, for the **teachings of Christ** as revealed in the New Testament, for the **same gospel and same conditions**, for **true worship**, and for the **name of Christ**.

In an age of denominational names for churches, we are pleading for the CHURCH to be called by the various NAMES or DESIGNATIONS we find in the Scriptures. Let us now consider various NAMES applied to the **church**.

1. "Unto the **church of God** which is at Corinth, . . ." (1 Cor. 1:2). See also 2 Cor. 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:5).

2. ". . . That thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the **house of God**, which is the **church of the living God**, . ." (1 Timothy 3:15).

3. ". . . To feed the **church of the Lord** . ." (Acts 20:28 - ASV).

4. "To the general assembly and **church of the firstborn**, which are written in heaven, . ." (Hebrews 12:23).

5. ". . . For the edifying of the **body of Christ**." (Ephesians 4:12).

(Continued from Page 2)

## OUR PLEA

James 2:7 says: "Do they not blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"

### UNITY

In this age of confusion and division, we are pleading for UNITY in religious matters. **Division is sinful** and is condemned by the apostle Paul as a work of the flesh. (See 1 Cor. 1:10; Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 5:19-21).

**JESUS PRAYED FOR UNITY.** He said: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be ONE; as thou Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be ONE in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." (John 17:21-22).

**JESUS DIED FOR UNITY!** John 11:51-52 says "...he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in ONE the children of God that were scattered abroad." Paul said concerning Christ: "And that He might reconcile both unto God in ONE BODY by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: . . ." (Ephesians 2:16).

**THERE CAN BE UNITY!** **Unity** can be achieved if we are willing to accept what God's Word plainly says. Paul said: "There is ONE BODY, and ONE SPIRIT, even as ye are called in ONE HOPE of your calling; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER of all, . . ." (Ephesians 4:4-6).

**UNITY cannot** be attained by denominational creeds, dogmas and traditions. These have produced **division** in the past and will continue to do so if they are followed.

Do you desire **UNITY** of God's people? There is a difference between true **UNITY** and a mere hand-shaking, back-slapping **union**. If you desire genuine **UNITY**, you must be willing to accept the **New Testament** as the **complete standard of authority** in religious matters. (Cf. James 1:25).

All who truly believe and obey the teachings of Christ as revealed in the New Testament will be united.

(CRS)

*(To Be Continued)*

## SENSIBLE REASONING

Jesus said: "**Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.**" (Matthew 5:6). Did you ever think about how strong that statement is? The most forceful and compelling passion one can have is to satisfy his thirst and hunger. This desire is so strong that people will satisfy it at any cost as the pangs of hunger and thirst grow upon them. Jesus was mindful of this fact and so He made the statement found above in Matthew 5:6.

Now think, if you can, of the person thirsting and hungering after righteousness who never attends church. (Editor's note: The author means a person who never assembles with the saints to worship God.) Think again of how poor and weakly the person is who attends church only once in a while. Again we might think, "How truly hungry and thirsty is one for righteousness who attends only one service a week with God's people?" Think about the person who does not attend Bible classes on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening and forsakes the Sunday evening services, hungering and thirsting after enough righteousness to be saved. Impossible to have such thoughts, isn't it? We should think about eternity. We are not here in this world long. Eternity is **never-ending** and **never** is a mighty long time. When we leave this world we are going to one of two places, and whichever one we go to, we are going there to **never** leave. Which will it be? **Heaven**, or, **will it be hell** in unquenchable flame?

--John N. Ford in  
THE EYE OPENER"

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a series of GOSPEL MEETINGS at the EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST December 11-13, 1981. Rick Creel will do the preaching. WE WELCOME YOU!

(Continued from Page 1)

## SALVATION BY GRACE

for the remission of sins . . ." ONE CANNOT BE SAVED BY GRACE UNLESS HE BELIEVES, REPENTS AND IS BAPTIZED as the word of God's grace teaches!

(CRS)

## JAMES E. PACK

Brother James Pack, 915 Brooklyn Avenue, Albertville, AL passed away suddenly on October 4, 1981. He is survived by his wife, Pauline, other relatives, a host of brothers and sisters in Christ and many friends and neighbors.

James was one of the "original" members of the East Albertville congregation. For more than a quarter of a century he was a "pillar" for the cause of Christ in this area. He encouraged others to "stand" for truth and righteousness. When other churches in the area chose to follow the advocates of "institutionalism" and the "social gospel" James made the choice to continue to "contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints." He believed the church should engage only in activities authorized in the New Testament and that the congregation is God's divine organization to do the work God assigned to the church. He wasn't swayed by the "band wagon" tactics that influenced many others. His heart was fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart was established.

When it became necessary for the church to "withdraw" from the disorderly, our beloved brother supported the action.

On October 6, funeral services were conducted at the East Albertville Church building. His body was laid to rest in "Memory Gardens" near Albertville to await the resurrection and judgment. We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope. We pray that God will richly bless our sister Pauline.

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DR. J.W. MAYO SAID: "Three out of ten that use alcoholic liquors become addicts to it, and most of the other seven suffer from it in later life."

## Sentence Sermons

Ananias wouldn't attract attention in this age of specialized prevarication.

One of the best exercises on earth is to reach down and pull a person up.

We should not be weary of the cross if we are sure of the crown.

It is not how high in life you go that counts, but how you got there.

He who has no clouds has no rainbows.

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