

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 6

OCTOBER, 1969

Number 10

FELLOWSHIP

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42).

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Cor. 1:9).

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3).

"If we say we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth: But, if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:6-7).

"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." (Phil. 2:1-2).

"I thank God . . . For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." (Phil. 1:3,5).

From these Scriptures we see that the fellowship in which the early disciples continued was a fellowship with Jesus, God, the Holy Spirit, and was a fellowship in the gospel. By having this fellowship with the three persons in the Godhead they also had "fellowship one with another." Since we are admonished to "be likeminded" that is the kind of fellowship He wants us to have.

In the light of these clear facts from the Scriptures concerning the kind of fellowship God intends that we have how can anyone think for a moment that the following from a bulletin printed by one of our brethren is even remotely scriptural?

"NOTICE TO OTHER CHURCHES RECEIVING THE BULLETIN"

"The church here has a softball team. We would like to arrange some games for Sunday afternoons. We do not profess to be very skillfull but it would be a lot of fun and good fellowship. If you have a team or can organize one (it doesn't have to be good either—we play for fun) contact me by either mail or phone or otherwise."

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting on Highway 431 South in Albertville, Ala.

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Ala. 35950.

Acts 2:36-38; Galatians 3:26-27; 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

1 TIMOTHY 3:1

We learn from 1 Tim. 3:1 that Paul said: "This is a true saying, IF A MAN DESIRE THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP, HE DESIRETH A GOOD WORK." Obviously, it is God's will that Christians worship and work together in local churches or congregations. Each congregation is to be overseen by a plurality of bishops or elders. (See Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4). In order for a man to be an elder and serve as an elder, he must meet the qualifications given by the apostle Paul as recorded in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Men may claim to be bishops and a congregation may recognize them as elders, but they are not true or faithful elders unless they are Scripturally qualified. If a man desires the work of a bishop, he desires a good work. The reason there are so few men today who are truly qualified to be elders is because there are not many who truly desire the work of a bishop. We should point out the need for elders and should strive to instill in the hearts of men the desire to be bishops. Truly, this is a great work.

1 TIMOTHY 4:8-10

The apostle to the Gentiles tells us that "bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." (1 Tim. 4:8-10). Since man is a two-fold being and cannot live by bread alone, we should deny ourselves of ungodliness and exercise ourselves unto godliness by seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. (See Tit. 2:11-12; Luke 9:23; Matt. 6:33). Our devotion to and trust

(Continued on page 3)

Editorial . . .

"This Is A Faithful Saying"

Several times in Paul's epistles he proclaimed: "THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING." Obviously same "sayings" are not faithful and dependable. We cannot rely upon them as being true. All inspired sayings are "faithful"; hence true and trustworthy. Let us consider a few "faithful sayings."

1 TIMOTHY 1:15

In his first letter to Timothy in chapter 1 and verse 1, the apostle Paul said: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS; of whom I am chief." The world lies in wickedness. There is none that doeth good; no not one. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. But thanks be unto God, that his grace has provided His Son as the Saviour! He came to seek and save the lost. He came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Through the Lord Jesus Christ salvation is provided for all who have sufficient faith to move with fear in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (See Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15-16;

(Continued from page 2)

"THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING"

in the living God prompts us to both labor and suffer reproach.

2 TIMOTHY 2:11-13

In his second letter to Timothy Paul said: "IT IS A FAITHFUL SAYING: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him, If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: for he cannot deny himself." We must mortify the old man of sin and put on the new man, if we would live with Christ. We must be willing to suffer as a Christian in order to reign as priests. Some deny Jesus by word and by actions. Others profess by word of mouth that they know Jesus but their actions belie their claim.

The afore-mentioned sayings are "faithful" because they have been given by inspiration of God. They point toward heaven but the "sayings" of men lead to eternal damnation.

Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ? Only the obedient will be saved eternally.

(CRS)

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. DATE OF FILING: Sept. 30, 1969. 2. TITLE OF PUBLICATION: "The Instructor". 3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE: Monthly. 4. LOCATION OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: Route 3, Highway 431 So., Albertville, Ala. 35950. 5. LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OR GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHERS: Same. 6. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR: PUBLISHER: Church of Christ, Rt. 3, Albertville, Ala. 35950; EDITOR: Carrol R. Sutton, 1103 Edmondson St., Albertville, Ala. 35950; MANAGING EDITOR: Same as editor. 10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION: Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 2458 printed; 2400 free

distribution; 2400 total distribution; 58 of office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing; 2458 Total. ACTUAL NUMBER OF COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE: 2500 Total number printed. 2450 free distribution; 2450 total distribution; 50 Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing; 2500 Total. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Signed by: CARROL R. SUTTON.

(Continued from page 1)

FELLOWSHIP

I want to plead with the brother who wrote this and all others who are pursuing a similar course to either produce the Scripture that authorizes such action (please do not refer to the Scriptures that teach fellowship, for we have already shown that they do not even remotely refer to that kind of fellowship) or else stop this practice before they lead many people into another digression. Popularity with young people because of ability as a social counselor and athletic coach are not scriptural qualifications for an evangelist, but it seems that many in the church today are trying to substitute these for the qualifications God has required. Of course it is easier to acquire these skills than it is to become skilled in the use of the sword of the Spirit. But why claim to follow the Bible if we are not going to do it?

—Elam B. Kuykendall in
GOSPEL DIGEST

PROVERBS 20:6—"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

A Voice From The Past

"There is a splendid example given to us as to how this work of caring for the poor IS to be done. The funds were gathered from the churches which were able to contribute to the poor saints at Jerusalem. This money then was sent to the elders of the church at Jerusalem and thus distributed to the ones who were in need. There was not another organization formed to take care of this work, they did the work through the means that the Lord had determined. Hence, it was done without any extra cost, and every cent the people of Corinth and Philippi contributed went into the hands of the distressed. It didn't take one third or one half of it to 'grease the machinery' for the organization which handled it."

—W. Claude Hall in the
GOSPEL ADVOCATE, Nov. 10, 1932,
Pg. 1210.

UNFAIR

Many times men, especially preachers, are presented with one side of a question and are expected to pass judgment favorable to the petitioner. If he hesitates to speak out before he hears all the evidence, the petitioner becomes peeved and accuses his would-be victim of taking the opposite side. On the other hand, if a favorable answer is given, the pseudo-judge is given the standing of one of the immortals, and his biased testimony is passed on as worthy of great prestige; his elated betrayer also seizes the opportunity and takes unfair advantage, gloating in his rival's defeat(?).

—G. F. GIBBS

PROVERBS 18:13—"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Sentence Sermons

The human race seems to have improved everything except people.

The great difficulty in amplifiers is they amplify the speaker's voice, but not his ideas.

The Devil is willing for you to profess pure religion as long as you do not practice it.

Another good thing about telling the truth is you don't have to remember what you say.

When opportunity knocks, too many people complain about the noise.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Route 3, Highway 431 So.
Albertville, Alabama 35950

Entered as second-class matter at
Albertville, Alabama