

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." . Timothy 3:16*

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## STANDING ALONE

Whether one stands alone or whether he stands in the midst of a group of kindred spirits, when issues are up and "chips are down," the Christian has no alternative but to stand. Of course, it is much easier and more comforting to know that there are those near to encourage and comfort when the ground is rugged and the standing demands courage.

One of the most inspiring characters to me in the Old Testament is Jeremiah. There were times when his burden was heavy and his message one of doom, and it seemed that he stood alone — but he stood! God sent him to the court of "Jehovah's house" to speak to the people the word that God would give him; and he was to diminish not a word. He was to speak as God gave the words to him. He was to declare unto them that unless they should change then the temple would become as Shiloh, and the city would be a curse to all nations. "To become as Shiloh" referred to the complete destruction of Shiloh when the tabernacle had been destroyed, apparently by the Philistines in the later period of Judges.

When Jeremiah had finished speaking, the priests and the prophets, the very ones who should have stood by him were highly indignant and said, "This man is worthy of

death; for he hath prophesied against the city, as ye have heard with your ears." Jeremiah's reply was, "I am in your hand: do with me as is good and right in your eyes;" but he assured them that if they killed him they would shed innocent blood, thus bringing great judgment upon themselves.

Another prophet, Uriah, preached according to the words of Jehovah; but when faced with the wrath of the king, he fled into Egypt. From there he was returned and killed. One man stood; the other fled. The one was protected by the very power of God; the other was slain. The lesson: when one stands alone in the cause of right and of the Lord, is he actually alone? Never! The Lord stands by His own. As said Jesus, "And he that sent me is with me; he hath not left me alone; for I do always the things that are pleasing in his sight." So can say one who stands on the things of the Father. "Himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee. So that with good courage we say, The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what shall man do unto me?" No, one does not stand alone; the God of the universe stands with him. What a comfort!

—Homer Hailey in

WESTVUE MESSENGER, May 2, 1968

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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CARROL R. SUTTON  
EDITOR

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

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## Editorial . . .

### IS THE PASTOR SYSTEM SCRIPTURAL?

Most so-called Protestant churches practice what is commonly known as "the pastor system." One man is selected or hired as "the pastor" of that local assembly of that denomination. Basically, he is given or he assumes the oversight of that local group. His actual oversight in practice may vary from group to group. People refer to that man as "the pastor" or "our pastor." He is usually a "figure authority" and is looked up to by those who are considered "laymen." He is usually given a title such as "Reverend," or "Father," or "Rabbi." Those who practice and support "the pastor system" think that it is good and Scriptural. Obviously, most of them never really question it in light of what the New Testament of Jesus Christ teaches. One is considered "narrow-minded" or against "good men" by many if he dares to call in question the practice of "the pastor system." After all, "the pastor system" has been practiced as long as they can remember. However, it is certainly in order for us to question the Scripturalness of any religious practice since we are exhorted to "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21). Is such a practice as "the pastor system" OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It is not OF FAITH and can not be practiced BY FAITH unless it is taught in the Word of God since "faith

cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Let us very carefully consider the following facts:

1. There is NO DIVINE COMMAND for a local church to have only one man called "the pastor" (or "our pastor") to oversee it. If you think you know of such a command in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, please send me the Book, chapter and verse. If you do not know of such a passage, please ask your "pastor" if he knows where such a command is found.

2. There is NO DIVINE EXAMPLE of a local church having only one man called "the pastor" to oversee it. If you think you know of such an example in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, please send me the Book, chapter and verse. If you do not know of such a passage, please ask your "pastor" if he knows where such an example is found.

3. There is NO NECESSARY IMPLICATION in the New Testament of Jesus Christ that a local church ever did or that a local church should have or may have only one man called "the pastor" to oversee it. If you think you know of such a necessary implication in the New Testament of Jesus Christ, please send me Book, chapter and verse. If you do not know of such a passage, please ask your "pastor" if he knows where such a necessary implication is found.

4. Since there is NO DIVINE AUTHORITY for the "one-man pastor system" it cannot be practiced "in the name of Christ" nor "to the glory of God." (See Colossians 3:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:31).

5. Those who oversee a local church are called "elders," (Acts 20:17, 28), or "presbyters," (1 Tim. 4:14), "bishops," (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9), or "overseers," (Acts 20:28), and "pastors," (Ephesians 4:11). A plurality of such men were appointed in each congregation. Acts 14:23 says: "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, ..." We learn from Acts 20:17, 28 that the church at Ephesus had a plurality of "elders" or "overseers." There was also a plurality of "bishops" in the church at Philippi.

6. In writing to a plurality of "elders" Peter said: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, ..." (1 Pet. 5:1-3). NOTE: A plurality of "elders" had the "oversight" of only one "flock."

NO, the "one-man pastor system" is not right! Let us follow God's Word!

(CRS)

# WOULD YOU DARE READ THIS . . .

## PEER INFLUENCE

One of the greatest dangers you face is the **wrong kind of "peer influence."** Peer is defined, among other things, as: "a person of the same rank, ability, etc., as another, equal." So I am talking about the influence exercised upon you by other young people who are of your own rank and age.

I urge you to read (1 Kings 12) where we have a splendid example of the dangers involved in "peer influence." Solomon had died and his son Rehoboam was the new king. Rehoboam would need a lot of good advice for the kingdom was about to divide. Jereboam was the opposition leader and he and all Israel made a very reasonable request, saying: "Now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee."

Rehoboam first consulted with the older men who had served with his father and they advised him: "If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, they will be thy servants for ever."

Rehoboam also consulted with his "peer group," "the young men who had grown up with him." He asked them what he ought to do about the people's request and they advised him to tell the people these words: "And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions."

This is where Rehoboam plays the fool. "But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him ..." He wasn't even wise enough to combine the two counsels and offer a rule of moderation. Instead, he gave in to "peer influence." If you continue to read, you will find that his decision which was greatly influenced by his "peers" brought destruction.

BECAUSE OF "PEER INFLUENCE" I have witnessed the estrangement of many young Christians from God. Many of these were active in the work and worship of the Lord and were well instructed. Some were preachers, teachers, and song leaders. Yet, they allowed "peer influence" to erode their faith until they just quit serving the Lord.

BECAUSE OF "PEER INFLUENCE" I have seen fine young people led into premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, and all kinds of violence.

BECAUSE OF "PEER INFLUENCE" I have seen young people become needlessly disenchanting with a congregation and become scattered like quail. In some cases, simply because they listened only to the voice of their "peers."

MY YOUNG FRIENDS, never allow yourselves to get in the position that the only voice you hear is the voice of your "peers." It can be dangerous.

-W.R. Jones in WEEKLY REMINDER,  
December 7, 1977

## BIBLE PREACHING

Many in this generation berate and downgrade the man who preaches the Bible. This is not altogether surprising. Naturally, those who do not believe the Bible and those who undervalue its authority do not think well of the preaching of it. But there are those within the church who have reached the point where they do "not endure the sound doctrine." (2 Tim. 4:3). Paul, with inspired prophetic insight predicted that such would happen. Again, men sometimes seem to feel that, considering their vast learning (whether real or imaginary, does not greatly matter), it would be an act of intolerable condescension on their part to preach the simple principles of New Testament Christianity. They want something that "sounds" scholarly and philosophical. Such were not the preachers of apostolic times.

On Pentecost, Peter, an inspired preacher, delivered a great sermon, more than a third of which was composed of quotations from the Old Testament. Paul, in his great speech in Pisidian Antioch, drew heavily upon the same source. He even told where to find one passage he quoted — "the second Psalm." (Acts 13:33). Now, they say, such practice is not in "good taste!" What pity that Peter, Paul, and Jesus, who frequently referred to portions of the Old Testament (Luke 24:44), did not know this! They were "Bible preachers."

*(Continued on page 4)*

# CHURCH SUPPORT OF HUMAN INSTITUTIONS

When God established the church he made her sufficient for the task assigned for her to perform in the world. As Jesus is an all-sufficient Saviour, the church is the completeness and fullness of Christ to do all the work God intended for her to do. (Eph. 1:22-23). The only functional organization known in the New Testament is the local church. It is not right for the local church to shift her responsibility by letting human institutions do the work God assigned the local church to do.

There is neither command nor example of the New Testament church supporting any human institution. Here are some Scriptural reasons why the church cannot support human institutions.

1. Jesus never taught it. (Acts 1:1).
2. The apostles never taught it. (Mt. 28:18-20). Yet they were to teach the gospel of Christ to all nations.
3. The Holy Spirit never taught it. (Jn. 16:13). Yet the Spirit was to guide the apostles into all truth. He was silent on this matter, hence, it does not belong to all truth.
4. One can not speak as the oracles of God speak and teach that such a practice is right for such practice is not part of the oracles of God. (1 Pet. 4:11).
5. Such is not the truth (Jn. 17:17). The word of God is truth and the truth knows nothing of such a practice.
6. God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). But church support of human institutions is not a part of revelation, hence, it does not pertain to life and godliness.

7. The Bible furnishes the man of God completely unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Such a practice is not a part of revelation and is not a good work.

8. Such a practice is not of faith (Rom. 10:17).

9. Such a practice is outside the doctrine of Christ and can not be practiced without sin. (2 Jn. 9).

10. Preaching and advocating such a doctrine is not preaching the truth. (2 Tim. 4:2).

Every Christian must respect the silence of Scripture. All of us should tremble at the thought of changing the will of God in any way. Recognize the fact that God can only be served as he has told us to serve Him in the Scriptures which He has revealed.

-Arvid McGuire

*(Continued from page 3)*

## BIBLE PREACHING

Times may change; times do change; but the time will never come when the Gospel of Christ will be out of date. Methods of preaching and teaching may change, means of transportation may be improved and used, but man's need for "the truth" that makes men free will not cease. Lost men must hear the truth that saves. It is a crime against God and man not to deliver such truth — the gospel. Preaching which does not reveal to lost men the way of salvation is not what they need. "Wherefore do you spend money for that which is not bread?" (Isa. 55:3).

-B.C. Goodpasture

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## Sentence Sermons

He who can take advise is sometimes superior to him who can give it.

With the "jet age", many people are living in the "get age."

Please smile because the whole world is a camera.

If ignorance is bliss, then why aren't more people happy?

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1107 Highway 431 South  
Albertville, AL 35950