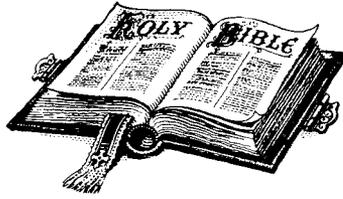


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## ABRAHAM — THE FRIEND OF GOD

Three times in the Scriptures Abraham is spoken of as **God's friend**. In Isaiah 41:8 God said ". . . Abraham my friend." In his prayer to God, Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, said: ". . . Abraham thy friend forever." (2 Chronicles 21:7). Centuries later in speaking of Abraham, James said: ". . . and he was called the Friend of God." (James 2:23).

Abraham's faith in God was the key factor in his being and in his being called the Friend of God. When Abram was called to leave his country and kinsmen and go into a land that God would show him, he obeyed! Although Abraham did not know where he was going, he knew with whom he was going. He had faith in the God of heaven and of earth. (See Genesis 12:1-3; Hebrews 11:8). By faith he "sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country" because he was looking for "a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Hebrews 11:8-10 tells us that "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose build-

er and maker is God." God tried (tested) Abram's faith when He told him (Abraham) to "take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of." Abram rose up early in the morning and proceeded to obey God's instructions. (See Genesis 22:1-19). We learn from Hebrews 11:17 that "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: . . ." (NOTE: God "tempted" Abraham in the sense that he "tried" him. But God did not "tempt" Abraham in the sense of "enticing him to do evil." According to James 1:13-15 God does not "tempt" man in that sense).

Paul said: "For what saith the Scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." (Romans 4:3). James said: "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" (See James 2:21-22). He was called "the Friend of God."

Abraham was truly a "friend of God." This is evidenced by his obedient faith! Do you have that kind of faith?

(CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### Editorial - - -

## **SPECIFIC WICKEDNESS** (Concluded)

In our previous articles on this subject, we discussed IDOLATRY, FORNICATION, HOMOSEXUALITY, HYPOCRISY, WRONG THOUGHTS, A FAILURE TO FORGIVE AND A FAILURE TO PROPERLY USE WHAT WE HAVE. We showed how these things are sinful and are specifically referred to in the Scriptures as WICKEDNESS.

Since **wickedness** may be defined as that which is **evil, bad, worthless or lawless**, anything that is done **without law is wickedness**. In other words, if a person acts **without authority from God**, he is acting **wickedly**. Let us continue our study of things that are **wicked** since they are evil, bad, worthless or lawless although the word **wickedness** may not be specifically mentioned in connection with these sins.

9. **PRESUMING TO SPEAK FOR GOD SOMETHING THAT GOD HAS NOT SPOKEN.** In Deuteronomy 18:20 Moses said to Israel: "**But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.**" NOTE: To presume to speak or act for God is to take upon oneself to speak or act without permission or authority from God to so do. In Deuteronomy 4:2 Moses said: "**Ye shall not add unto**

the thing which I command you. Neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." NOTE: In Old Testament times it was not right to either add to nor take from the commandments of God.

In the New Testament we learn that "**Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.**" (2 John 9). To transgress is to go beyond the teaching of Christ. To abide in the doctrine of Christ is to believe and obey the teaching of Christ.

We must learn "**not to think of men above that which is written.**" (See 1 Cor. 4:6). Paul also said: "**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ . . .**" (Col. 3:17). "**In word**" refers to our speech. "**In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ**" means "**By the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.**" If Christ has not authorized us to speak or act, we have no right to claim we are speaking or acting for Him.

Here are some things that men **presume** are pleasing to God, but God has **not** authorized them to teach these things.

1. Babies are born in sin.
2. Jesus died only for the elect.
3. Unconditional predestination.
4. The salvation of sinners is wholly or solely by grace.
5. The Scriptures are not sufficient to guide us.
6. Sinners are saved by faith only.
7. One church is just as good as another church.
8. Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sicknesses (physically) as well as for our sins.
9. Baptism is not essential to salvation.
10. The church is not important.
11. Sprinkling is baptism.
12. There is nothing in a name.
13. Churches may Scripturally contribute funds out of their treasuries to

(Continued on Page 3)

## SPECIFIC WICKEDNESS

(Continued from Page 2)

human organizations such as schools, benevolent organizations, etc.

14. Alien sinners may pray through to salvation.

15. A Christian cannot fall from grace and be eternally lost.

16. There are Christians in all churches.

17. A church can not withdraw fellowship from a person who is not a member of that local church.

18. A Christian may Scripturally swear.

19. It does not matter how a person worships God.

20. A church can not withhold or withdraw fellowship from another church.

21. Churches may Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin.

22. We are not under any system of law.

23. Christians, and especially preachers, may encourage unfaithful churches (those proven to be in sin and marked by faithful Christians) by worshipping with, working with, and having fellowship with them.

24. Churches have a Scriptural right to provide entertainment, recreation, and social activities for the young people.

25. The blood of Christ will cleanse the child of God of the sins he commits either through weakness or ignorance without repentance and prayer.

When a person presumes to speak any of the above mentioned things in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is making a false claim because none of these things are taught in God's word. That person that so speaks is guilty of WICKEDNESS! We should so "speak" and "do" as those who will be judged "by the law of liberty!" (Cf. James 2:12). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." (1 Peter 4:11).

These studies should impress all of us with the fact that not only are immoral people wicked, but many people who may be good morally and even religious

## IS IT REALLY TRUE?

(No. 6)

IS IT REALLY TRUE that the word of God is powerful? Yes, it is true because Hebrews 4:12 says: "For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword . . ." NOTE: Only false teachers and others who have no respect for God claim that the word of God is "just a dead letter."

IS IT REALLY TRUE that the gospel is God's power to save the lost? Yes, it is true because the apostle Paul declared: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16). NOTE: God saves sinners by His power, the gospel, not by the opinions, feelings or systems of men!

IS IT REALLY TRUE that we can know that we have eternal life by what is written? Yes, it is true because 1 John 5:13 says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." NOTE: You can not know by your feelings or by human testimony that ye are saved. The only way that you can know that you are saved and thus have eternal life is by what is written in the Scriptures. "How readest thou?"

IS IT REALLY TRUE that one receives faith by hearing God's Word? Yes, it is true because the apostle Paul says in Romans 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." With reference to the miracles and signs wrought by Jesus that are recorded in the book of John, it is recorded that ". . . these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God . . ." (See John 20:30-31). (CRS)

are in fact practicing WICKEDNESS! What about you? Are you guilty of wickedness? If so, we sincerely plead with you this day to turn away from your wickedness! (CRS)

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a series of assemblies in which the Word of God is to be preached. These assemblies will be at the EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 1107 Highway 431 So., in Albertville, Alabama. The date of these assemblies is December 9-11, 1983. The time is 7:30 each evening except on the Lord's Day. On the Lord's Day we will meet at our regular hours. HIRAM HUTTON of Tuscaloosa, Alabama is scheduled to do the preaching! Please make your plans to be with us and invite others!

## PROVERBS

"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered." (28:26).

## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

You can do something about improving the world. You can improve yourself.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is the quality of marriage, not marriage itself, that brings happiness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sickness which contributes to the health of the soul is good.

\* \* \* \* \*

Poverty that increases our eternal riches is kind.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is more needful that we listen to God than to talk to Him.

\* \* \* \* \*

We are never justified in condoning sin by our attitudes or actions any where by any one at any time. Sin can never be supported nor encouraged and God be pleased.

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