

# 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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## DOES GOD ACCEPT YOUR WORSHIP?

Some people say: "It does not matter how we worship. I can worship God any way I want to and God will accept my worship." Friends and brethren, is this what the New Testament of Jesus Christ teaches? Is it? Let us see.

### IGNORANT WORSHIP

In speaking to the Athenians, the apostle Paul said: "Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious (ASV says religious). For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye IGNORANTLY WORSHIP, him declare I unto you." (Acts 17:22-23). It is obvious from the reading of this passage that **God does not accept this kind of worship!** Ignorant worship is vain worship!

### VAIN WORSHIP

In Matthew 15:7-9 Jesus said to some religionists of the first century: "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." It can be clearly seen from this passage that **worship is vain** when people teach for doctrines the commandments of men, although they may draw nigh unto God with their mouths and may honour God with their lips. **Their heart is far from**

**God** when they teach and are directed by the doctrines of men. **God does not accept this kind of worship!**

### WILL - WORSHIP

In Colossians 2:18-23 the apostle Paul mentions some things and then says, **Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will — worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.** Will-worship is worship directed by and is after one's own will. It is self-chosen and for this reason it is a departure from God's wisdom and way. However pious and plausible it may seem and regardless of how beautiful it may appear, it is folly and thus it is in vain. **God does not accept this kind of worship!**

### TRUE WORSHIP

In John 4:23-24 our blessed Lord said: "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **TRUE WORSHIPPERS shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.**" It is quite obvious from this passage that it does matter how one worships God. **God said that worship "must" be "in spirit and in truth!"** We dare not say otherwise. Please examine your worship in the light of these and other Scriptures and see if God accepts it.

(CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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### Editorial . . .

#### **"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 7)**

Our investigation of the Scriptures last month gave evidence that the doctrines that "**Babies are born in sin**" and that "**Jesus died only for the elect**" are in opposition to a number of plain statements in God's word and therefore they are **false** doctrines. The fact that highly trained theologians advocate such doctrines is **not proof** that such teachings can be found in the Scriptures. Friends, if it is **not taught** in God's word we dare not teach it nor encourage others to teach it.

Those who advocate these doctrines are obligated to **prove** that they are taught in the Scriptures. We hereby **challenge** those who advocate the doctrine that "**Babies are born in sin**" and that "**Jesus died only for the elect**" to **prove** by God's word that such teachings are true!

As we continue these studies, number 3 is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, Oct., 1983, under "**Specific Wickedness**" for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in # 3) has been requested. It reads as follows:

#### **"3. Unconditional predestination."**

**COMMENTS:** The **CONFESSION OF FAITH** of the Presbyterian Church, 1934, expresses the doctrine of "**Unconditional predestination**" on pages 22-23 in these words: "**By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men,**

**thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished.**" According to Presbyterianism God predestinated some men unto life "... without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto . . ." The rest of mankind was unconditionally ordained "**to dishonor and wrath for their sin . . .**" according to the doctrine of unconditional predestination.

A candid consideration of the following facts and Scriptures should convince every sincere lover of truth that the above statement is **false**.

1. Although there are several Scriptures that mention and thus teach "predestination" and "foreordination" (and "foreknowledge"), there is **NO SCRIPTURE** that teaches that before the foundation of the world God **unconditionally** predestinated or foreordained that some men would be saved and others would be damned eternally.

2. The Scriptures teach that salvation is **conditional**. Please note the following Scriptures:

A. **JOHN 3:16** — ". . . whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Verse 18 says: "**He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**" **Acts 16:31** says: "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**" **NOTE:** These verses clearly indicate that **BELIEF** is a condition of salvation and eternal life!

B. **ACTS 2:38** — "**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .**" **I Peter 3:21** says: ". . . baptism doth also now save us, . . ." **NOTE:** These verses clearly indicate that **repentance and baptism** are conditions of salvation!

C. **MATTHEW 7:21** says: "**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that DOETH the will of my Father which is in heaven.**" **Revelation 22:14** says: "**Blessed are they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, that they**

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may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." NOTE: These Scriptures clearly prove that one **must do** the Father's will in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven and to have right to the tree of life!

3. The doctrine of unconditional predestination makes God a respecter of persons although the following Scriptures declare that God is **not** a respecter of persons.

A. ACTS 10:34-35 says: "**Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**" He also said: "**And if ye call on the Father, WHO WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS judgeth according to every man's work, . . .**" (1 Peter 1:17).

B. ROMANS 2:11 says: "**For there is NO RESPECT OF PERSONS WITH GOD.**" (Also read Ephesians 6:9).

4. The doctrine of unconditional predestination makes God alone responsible for all who are damned eternally because He, it is alleged, unconditionally ordained them to dishonor and wrath.

5. If the doctrine of unconditional predestination is true, here are some of the logical consequences:

A. All people are invited to come to the Lord, but all do **not** have a right to come. Remember it was Jesus Christ who gave the invitation when he said: "**Come unto me ALL YE THAT LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.**" (Matthew 11:28-30). In Timothy 2:3-4 the apostle Paul said: "**For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have ALL MEN TO BE SAVED AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.**" We are also told that "**the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And WHOSOEVER WILL, let him take the water of life freely.**" (Revelation 22:17). NOTE: It would be foolish to invite those who have no right to come.

B. Either some people (those who

are unconditionally damned) can **not possibly obey** Jesus Christ or He is **NOT "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"** as Hebrews 5:9 says.

C. Either some people can **NOT** truly believe in Jesus Christ or He will **NOT** save all those who do truly believe in Him, but John 3:16 declares that ". . . **WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM should not perish, but have everlasting life.**"

D. The gospel of Christ is **NOT** God's power to save those who believe as Romans 1:16 says. NOTE: According to the doctrine of unconditional predestination God predestinated some to be saved "**without any foresight of faith**" or any other condition or conditions on their part.

E. Either some people can **NOT** possibly repent, or they will be lost in spite of the fact that they do repent.

F. Jesus Christ did **NOT** (in reality) taste death "**for every man**" as Hebrews 2:9 declares.

G. God showed **NO** love or mercy for some people (those ordained to dishonor, wrath and damnation) although John 3:16 declares that ". . . **God so LOVED THE WORLD, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**"

H. God did **NOT** ordain some people (sinners) to dishonor, wrath and eternal damnation because of their sins, although Romans 6:23 says "**For the wages of sin is death . . .**" NOTE: If God did ordain some people (sinners) to dishonor, wrath and eternal damnation because of their sins **then** He **conditionally** predestinated them! That would be the opposite of **unconditional** predestination!

I. God **IS** willing that many should perish although 2 Peter 3:9 shows very clearly that the Lord is "**NOT willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance!**"

When we consider all of God's word we must conclude that God's word does **NOT** teach "unconditional predestination."

When a person **presumes** to speak the doctrine of unconditional predestination in the name of Christ, he is speaking

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## GUY N. WOODS — AGAIN

“... At a time when no other church felt sufficient interest to assist him, the Philippian brethren were sending once and again to his needs. He speaks of the ‘fellowship’ with him in the matter of giving and receiving. The word ‘fellowship’ means partnership, joint participation. Paul felt that certain brethren, in contributing to his needs, were partners of his in the work he was doing.

Here, too, we see the simple manner in which the church in Philippi joined Paul in the work of preaching the gospel. There was no ‘missionary society’ in evidence, and none was needed; the brethren simply raised the money and sent it directly to Paul. This is the way it should be done today. No organization is needed to accomplish the work the Lord has authorized the church to do. When men become dissatisfied with God’s arrangement and set up one of their own, they have already crossed the threshold to apostasy. Let us be satisfied with the Lord’s manner of doing things.” — **Teachers’ ANNUAL LESSON COMMENTARY on Bible School Lessons**, 1946, page 341.

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presumptuously and is teaching false doctrine because such is **not** taught in God’s Book! **The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!** We should so “speak” and “do” as those who will be judged “by the law of liberty.” (See James 2:12)

(CRS)

(To Be Continued)

## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

A broken character doesn’t knit easily.

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As stretching a rubber band weakens the rubber, so stretching the truth weakens the truth.

\* \* \* \* \*

When some people run into a telephone pole, they blame the pole.

\* \* \* \* \*

The road to heaven is never over-crowded.

\* \* \* \* \*

A pint of practicing is worth a barrel of preaching.

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