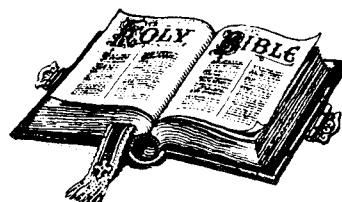


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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PARALLELS

In the present controversy that is raging over benevolent societies and other human arrangements encroaching on the church and its work, brethren are pointing out — and rightly so — the fact that such are “parallel to the missionary society.” But this doesn’t mean that such benevolent societies are parallel in **every detail**, but that the two are parallel in details that are **unscriptural**, and hence both are unscriptural.

The brethren who are trying to defend such benevolent societies as being scriptural say that the two are **not parallel, at all**, since they aren’t parallel, in several details.

Well, a thing does not have to be parallel in **every** respect to another before it can be said of the two, “the two are parallel.” Note these examples. In Luke 10:3 Jesus said to his disciples, “I **send you forth as lambs**.” So in some respects the disciples are **parallel to lambs**, (but not in **every detail**). On another occasion He said, “**Be harmless as doves**. (Matthew 10:16). So a disciple is parallel, in some ways, to a **dove**, but not in **every detail**. In the

same verse, disciples are said to be parallel to “serpents” — at least in **one detail** — “wise as serpents.” From this we can see that in some ways disciples are parallel to “lambs,” to “doves,” and even to “serpents.” But a disciple is not a lamb, nor a dove, nor a serpent.

Hence, just as disciples are to be parallel to doves, lambs, and serpents in **some** (but not **every**) details, so benevolent societies are parallel to the missionary society in **some** (but not **every**) details. And I maintain that the benevolent society is parallel to the missionary society in details that are **unscriptural**, and thus both are unscriptural! Who will deny it?

—**Hirom O. Hutto** in THE BULLETIN of the church in Pleasant Grove, AL — January, 1961.

Editor’s Note: Although the above article was written 25 years ago, it is still as true now as it was then. It is as much needed now as it was then. Church supported missionary societies (and benevolent societies) stand or fall together. The truth is, they fall together!

THE INSTRUCTOR

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We can learn and **understand** from what Paul stated in Ephesians 1:11 that Christians have “**obtained an inheritance**” in Christ. Consider Paul’s statement: “**In whom also we have obtained an inheritance**, . . .” In 2 Timothy 2:10 Paul said: “**Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**” If we will consider what Paul stated in that passage, we can learn and **understand** that salvation is in Christ Jesus. NOTE: If we **consider** what Paul said we **can** and **will understand** that salvation and all other spiritual blessings are IN CHRIST!

If we consider what Paul said in Ephesians 1:20-23, we can learn and **understand** that God raised Christ from the dead and set Him at His own right hand and put all things under His feet and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is the body. Hear the apostle Paul’s statement and consider it carefully. “**Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**” Friend, when you candidly **consider** these things, you can receive understanding.

In Ephesians 2:8-9 we read: “**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.**” If we will consider these words stated by the apostle Paul we **can** and **will understand** that salvation is by grace! We can also **understand** that salvation is **through faith!** We can understand that salvation is the gift of God! We can **understand** that salvation is **not** of boastful works!

(CRS)

(To be continued)

Editorial . . .

“CONSIDER WHAT I SAY . . .” (No. 2)

As we continue our study let us keep in mind what Paul said to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:7: “**Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.**”

Understanding in all things was possible for Timothy. The Lord would give that understanding. However, that understanding was conditional. It was necessary for Timothy to **consider** what the apostle Paul said. If you and I desire “**understanding in all things**” we should consider what Paul (and other inspired men) have spoken and written.

IF WE CONSIDER

If we consider what Paul said in Ephesians 1:3, we can **understand** that “**all spiritual blessings**” in heavenly places are “**in Christ**.” There Paul said: “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**” We can learn and **understand** from Ephesians 1:7 that **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness of sins** is **in Christ**. In Eph. 1:7 Paul said: “**In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.**”

WHO BUILT THE CHURCH?

Who built the church?
Jesus did!

He said, "**I will build my church.**" (Matthew 16:18). We have its name (Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 12:27), doctrine and practice (Acts and the Epistles) recorded in the Bible. Any church whose name, doctrines or practices are not in the Bible is not the church Jesus built.

The church is the family or "**house of God.**" (1 Tim. 3:15). "**And if the Lord build not the house, they labor in vain that build it.**" The church of Christ in fact, is the only church that can give chapter and verse for everything it believes! If you do not believe this, then check up.

When the average man, who never reads the Bible enough to know whether Jesus was crucified or killed in the battle of Bunker's Hill, makes the blunder of saying that the "**churches of Christ**" were started by Alexander Campbell (or any other man), their ignorance might be excused. But when preachers and others who are supposed to study both the Bible and history, make such a colossal blunder it makes one wonder if it is actual ignorance or a bold misrepresentation.

Alexander Campbell did not do his work until the 19th century. But you can read of the church of the Lord — you can find it described in the Bible just exactly as it is today! The Bible was completed in A.D. 96-97. Therefore the church of Christ existed some 1,800 years before Alexander Campbell did his work! Jesus, in Matthew 16:18-19, said "**the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**" And in Daniel 2:44, we learn it was to "**stand forever.**" Therefore the same body — the same church talked about in the Bible exists today!

Since there are so many claiming to be the church, how can it be identified? When it is found today it will have the same name, the same doctrine and the same practices it had in the first century. It will have the same law of induction, law of worship and the same organization, the same founder and head. The church today known as the church of Christ is the same church

that came into being on Pentecost of Acts two!

Those who claim that the church of Christ was started by Alexander Campbell are openly challenged to:

1. Point out one name worn by the church of Christ that originated with Campbell.

2. Point out one thing practiced by the churches of Christ, which was originated by Campbell.

3. Point out one doctrine to which we adhere, which was originated by Campbell.

Now if they can do this, let them arise to the task. If they cannot, then let them be fair enough to forever cease making charges they cannot prove.

In Acts two, sinners heard, believed and were baptized, having repented (before baptism of course), and as a result of their hearing and obeying the gospel, God added them to the church. Did that make them Campbellites? (See Acts 2:47). Certainly not.

Then if we hear the same gospel, believe the same gospel and obey the same commands, why won't it make of us the same thing it made of them?

Think about that!

—**Gayle Oler** in JUST A MOMENT
4/1/50

GOSPEL MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a series of gospel meetings at the building of the East Albertville congregation October 26-31, 1986 at 7:30 each evening except on the Lord's day. On that day, we will meet at our regular times.

Bobby Robinson of Athens, Alabama will be preaching.

There will be plain gospel preaching, congregational singing and fervent prayers. Questions and comments will be welcomed. No nightly collections will be taken.

WALKING IN CHRIST: Proverbs

"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small." (Prov. 24:10).

Some years ago I read an article by a champion distance swimmer. When asked for the secret of his success he replied: **"I keep on swimming when the pain begins."**

His point was that there are lots of swimmers who can do well, up to a point, perhaps as well as he can. But there is a point in distance swimming at which mounting pain and exhaustion begin to play with the swimmer's determination. He begins to invent all sorts of reasons to quit.

No doubt, many of us have experienced similar feelings at some point in our lives. The difference between those who pressed on and accomplished their goals and those who did not was often the willingness or unwillingness to endure pain.

—**Don Bassett** in 12th St. Bulletin

SUTTON - FROST DEBATE

There will be a public discussion of God's Word November 17, 18, 20 and 21, 1986 at the Tuscaloosa - Southside Lion's Club Building, Greensborough Avenue at 31st Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. **Carrol R. Sutton** and **Jack L. Frost** (a member of the "Corona End Time Tabernacle of True Holiness Church" of Berry, Alabama) will be the disputants. The time will be 7:30 each evening.

Carrol R. Sutton will be affirming that **immersion** is the only Scriptural **mode** (action) of water baptism.

Jack L. Frost will be affirming that pouring and sprinkling is the only Scriptural **mode** of water baptism.

For further information please contact **Bob Smith** at (205) 345-2378 or **Bob Mitchell** at (205) 752-9000.

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

Anyone who looks for friends without faults will find no friends.

* * * * *

If you are looking for faults, please use a mirror, not a telescope.

* * * * *

Wealth does not insure happiness, but neither does poverty.

* * * * *

There is never an honest way to do a dishonest deed.

* * * * *

Ideas do not work unless you do.

* * * * *

A lazy person tempts the devil to tempt him.

* * * * *

Powerful praying is not pretty phrases, but persistent prevailing.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
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