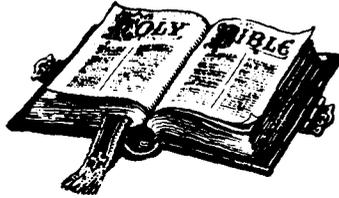


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 25

OCTOBER, 1988

Number 10

TO TELL THE TRUTH

Recently, an article in "U.S. News and World Report" caught my eye. The article contained some very interesting information, much of which was based on a poll conducted by U. S. News and CNN. For instance, the results of the survey indicated that most people believe that the members of the "clergy" will tell them the truth more frequently than anyone else, and they are more apt to trust an auto-repair worker than the president of the United States.

But one of the most fascinating aspects of the survey to me was that while 94% of those polled said honesty was an "extremely" important quality in a friend, and 71% said they were "dissatisfied with the nation's honesty and standards of behavior", 71% of these same people admitted that they themselves had told lies to members of their own families.

It was Leo Tolstoy who said, "Everybody thinks of changing humanity, and nobody thinks of changing himself." Sure, we're dissatisfied with the nation's honesty. Sure, we expect our friends to always tell us the truth. But what about us? Do we always tell the truth?

I hate being lied to as much as anything. Don't you? But frankly, I can accept the fact that we are living in a nation of liars. I don't like it, but I can accept it. After all, the Psalmist once hastily observed that "**All men are liars.**" (Psalms 116:11). It should not surprise us that those in the world around us are dishonest, for they are serving Satan, who "... **is a liar and the father of it.**" (John 8:44). As a result of this allegiance with Satan, "**all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**" right along with him. (Revelation 20:10; 21:8).

It is much harder for me to accept the fact that there are Christians who are liars. You may have been a liar before you became a Christian. But if you really are a Christian, if you are really trying to be like Christ, who is Himself "**the truth**" (John 14:6), you must not lie. Paul puts it this way in Colosians 3:9-10, "**Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds: And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.**" We are to be renewed after the

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

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

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial . . .

SOME THINGS WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(No. 2)

In our study last month we emphasized the fact that preachers have a responsibility to put others "in remembrance" of certain things. (See 2 Peter 1:12; 2 Tim. 2:14; 1 Tim. 4:6). We showed from the Scriptures that **we should remember the Creator**. The Scriptures plainly teach that God created heaven, earth, man and all things. The creation of God reveals God to the extent that God's eternal power and Godhead can be seen. Those who deny God's existence are **without** excuse.

Let us now consider another thing that we should remember.

2. WE SHOULD REMEMBER GOD'S WORD! To the Israelites through Moses God said: ". . . **That ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; . . .**" (Numbers 15:39). God also said to them through Malachi, "**Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.**" (Malachi 4:4).

Speaking to His apostles while He lived here on earth, Jesus said: **Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have**

persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my sayings, they will keep yours also." (John 15:20).

Writing to Christians the apostle Peter said: "**This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance; That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandments of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour.**" (2 Peter 3:1-2). NOTE: We should be mindful of the words of the holy prophets and of the commandments of the apostles of Christ!

Addressing saints Jude said: "**But beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" (Jude 17).

In remembering God's Word, we should remember that:

(1) **IT IS INSPIRED** "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16-17). The men who wrote the Scriptures were **inspired by the Holy Spirit**. Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (See 2 Pet. 1:20-21; 2 Sam. 23:2; John 14:25-26; 15:26-27; 16:13).

Paul declared, "**But as it is written, Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of men, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. BUT GOD HATH REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: . . . Which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**" (1 Cor. 2:9-13). In Gal. 1:11-12 Paul also

(Continued on page 3)

SOME THINGS WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(Continued from page 2)

declared: "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of men, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" To the saints at Ephesus Paul said: "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation He made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, whereby when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; . . ." (Eph. 3:2-7).

Every Bible believing person must believe that God inspired the men who gave us the Scriptures. We should remember God's Word and let it abide in our hearts. Otherwise we will not be prepared when we meet the Lord in Judgment.

(2) IT IS POWERFUL! The Hebrew writer tells us that ". . . The word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Heb. 4:12).

Several times the expressions "And God said . . ." and "And it was so" appears in the first chapter of Genesis. It was "By the word of the Lord" that the heavens were made. The Lord "spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast." (See Psalms 33:6-9). NOTE: There was power in the word of the Lord!

The word of God as revealed in the Scriptures is powerful. It is able to:

a. **Give light.** (See Psalms 119: 130; 119:105; 2 Cor. 4:3-4).

b. **Give understanding.** (See Psalms 119:130; 2 Tim. 2:7; Eph. 3:2-7).

c. **Produce faith.** (See Romans 10:8, 17; Acts 15:7).

d. **Sanctify.** (See John 17:17; Acts 20:32).

e. **Cleanse.** (See John 15:3).

f. **Build up.** (See Acts 20:32).

g. **Save us .** (See Romans 1:16; James 1:21).

h. **Judge us.** (See John 12:48; Romans 2:14; James 2:12).

(3) WE MUST OBEY IT! Jesus tells us that it is the doer of the Father's will who will enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Cf. Matt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14). Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY him." (Heb. 5:9). James says, "But be ye DOERS of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22).

It is not enough for one to hear, understand and believe God's word. One must OBEY it from the heart in order to be saved. (See Romans 6:17-18).

In review of the coming judgment, we cannot afford to forget that by which we will be judged. Let us remember God's word!

(CRS)

(To be continued)

TO TELL THE TRUTH

(Continued from page 1)

image" of our creator, a creator who "cannot lie" (Titus 1:2).

Another thing to consider is that lying to another is like lying to yourself. In Eph. 4:25 Paul writes, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another." We are members one of another! As Christians, we are all part of the same body, the body of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 12:27). So lying, especially lying to a fellow Christian, is like lying to yourself, and you know how much you hate lying!

— Steve Klein

ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

“ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE”: only those who come to God through Christ can have spiritual life here, and hope of eternal life when this earthly life has ended. Jesus declares, “**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me.**” (John 14:6). To reject the Christ is to reject the salvation offered by God, in Him (Ephesians 1:7, 3; 2 Timothy 2:10), and this means **NO SPIRITUAL LIFE HERE**, and the “**SECOND DEATH**” for eternity! (Revelation 21:8)

Come to Christ, “**that they (you) may have life, and that . . . more abundantly.**” (John 10:10)

— Charles G. Maples

GOSPEL MEETINGS

A series of gospel meetings has been scheduled to be conducted October 23-26, 1988 at the building of the congregation that meets at 1107 Highway 4331 South in Albertville, Alabama.

The meetings will begin each evening (Monday through Wednesday) at 7:30 o'clock.

Huston Gately of Huntingdon, Tennessee will be preaching.

There will be congregational singing and fervent prayers.

No nightly collections will be taken. Questions will be welcomed.

We cordially invite and urge you to attend! Tell others! **WE WELCOME YOU!**

SENTENCE SERMONS

It is always safe to trust an unknown future to the known God and His will.

* * *

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much.”

* * *

The world is moved by men who cannot be moved by the world.

* * *

You cannot hide your influence — either for good or evil.

* * *

“He that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1107 Highway 431 South
Albertville, Alabama 35950