

# 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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## IS THE KINGDOM NOW IN EXISTENCE?

Christians teach that **"the kingdom is NOW in existence."** Is this true? Is it OF FAITH? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? It is NOT OF FAITH and cannot be advocated BY FAITH unless it is taught in God's Word since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Let us consider the following facts:

1. Daniel prophesied that **"in the days of these kings** (obviously during the reign of the Ceasars over the Roman empire CRS) **shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed,...and it shall stand forever."** (Daniel 2: 44). NOTE: This fact alone shows unquestionably that the kingdom was established and is NOW in existence!

2. John the Baptist preached saying, **"Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is AT HAND."** (Matthew 3:2). NOTE: **"At hand"** means **"near in time."**

3. During the personal ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, He preached saying, **"Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is AT HAND."** (Matthew 4:17).

4. Joseph of Arimathaea **"also himself waited for the kingdom of God."** (See Luke 23:5-53). NOTE: Joseph was a good man and just. He was a disciple of Jesus. He begged for the body of Jesus and went and buried it in his own new tomb.

5. Paul and the saints of God at Colosse had been delivered from the power of

darkness and had been translated **"into the kingdom of His dear Son."** (See Col. 1:13-14). NOTE: Paul and others were IN THE KINGDOM in about A.D. 64. Without question the kingdom was in existence.

6. Hebrews 12:28-29 says: **"Wherefore we RECEIVING A KINGDOM which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."** QUESTION: Does not this passage indicate the existence of the kingdom in the first century?

7. Revelation 1:9 says: **"I John, who also am your brother in tribulation, and IN THE KINGDOM and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."** NOTE: John was IN THE KINGDOM when he wrote the Book of Revelation! It was in existence!

8. 1 Cor. 15:24 says: **"Then cometh the end, when He (Christ) shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power."** NOTE: Instead of setting up the kingdom when He comes, Christ shall DELIVER UP the kingdom to God!

9. If the kingdom is not in existence NOW, Christ is not KING of kings and LORD of lords—but HE IS! (Cf. Rev. 17:14).

YES, the teaching that **the kingdom is NOW in existence** IS OF FAITH AND CAN BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH!

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### YOUNG MEN AND SOUND DOCTRINE

In Titus 2 Paul mentions several classes of people who should be taught **"the things which become sound doctrine."** Verse two mentions **aged men**. Verse three names **aged women**. Verse four names **young women** and verse six mentions **young men**. It is not sufficient for us to teach only some of the classes mentioned, but all of them should be taught.

While insisting on **"sound doctrine"** on "first principles" let us also demand that **sound doctrine** be advocated in all things. Let us learn and teach **"the things which become sound doctrine"** that Paul give in Titus 2, as well as elsewhere. Not only should the aged men, aged women, and young women be taught certain things, but Paul clearly shows that young men should be taught certain things. Let us now consider some of them.

### SOBER-MINDED

Paul said: **"Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded."** (Titus 2:6). In order for one to be "sober-minded" he must exercise self-control. Unless he is "of sound mind" he is not likely to manifest self-control. In exercising self-control one curbs his passions. Passions are usually very strong in young men. They should be exhorted to manifest self-restraint. One should not indiscriminately fulfil his appetites nor gratify his lusts. He should curb his

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his passions and fulfil them only in a God ordained way or avenue. For example, one should not fulfil his sexual desires outside of the marriage relationship. To avoid fornication, every man should have his own wife. (Cf. 1 Cor. 7:2).

### ALCOHOL

**Sober-mindedness** will cause the young man to abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages because he will recognize that drinking any amount may lead to drunkenness which is sinful. (See Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

The promises made by alcohol are deceptive. It promises success and happiness, but it results in failure and poverty and ends in misery.

The advertizing of alcohol is deceptive. It pictures men and women of health, refinement and prestige, but it never shows the broken health, ruined relationships, broken families, crime and filth that it produces. The "man of distinction" in today's ad may be the "man of despair" tomorrow.

**Drunkenness** is a destructive sin. It destroys the body and mind of the drinker. It even destroys the lives of those who do not drink. Many families are destroyed by drunkenness. Drunkenness may even destroy future generations because alcohol has a deteriorating and impairing effect upon the offspring of those who drink. Alcohol destroys one's self-respect, virtue, influence and finally his soul.

**Drunkenness** is an unjustifiable evil. It cannot be justified as a stimulant. Its apparent stimulating effects are due to the suppression of one's inhibitions. It is actually a depressant, not a real stimulant. Alcohol cannot be justified as a food. It is a poison rather than a food. Alcohol cannot be justified as a source of revenue for the government. It is indeed a poor and sorry government that must exist on or benefit from the revenue from sin. I'm told that, in reality, the net income received is not enough to pay for the crime, disease, treatment, property and other results that come from the use of intoxicating beverages.

### MODERN SOCIAL DANCE

**Sober-mindedness** will cause the young man to abstain from engaging in the social dance because he will recognize that it is closely related to such evils as drinking intoxicants, smoking, petting and unlawful sexual relations. He will want to abstain

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from every form of evil. (See 1 Thess. 5: 22). **Dancing** creates lustful desires which is wantonness and lasciviousness. (See Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:19-21). **Dancing** leads to a loss of spirituality. The more one dances, the less he prays and reads the Scriptures. **Dancing** develops a careless attitude toward the Lord's church and its efforts and endeavors. Often it causes children to be neglected, breaks up families and causes divorce. **Dancing** leads to a loss of influence for good and it weakens one's effectiveness in winning souls.

## TOBACCO

**Sober-mindedness** will cause the young man to abstain from smoking tobacco because he will recognize that it does not offer any lasting positive benefits but that it is detrimental to the user.

There is sufficient evidence that should convince anyone that smoking tobacco creates a health hazard. One's body and mind are affected. **Smoking** often infringes on the rights of others. They are forced to breathe polluted air. **Smoking** sets a bad example for children and others. **Smoking** wastes time, money and effort. **Smoking** has an offensive odor. **Smoking** weakens one's will power. A young man should consider carefully the following Scriptures before he begins (or continues) smoking. (1 Cor. 6: 19-20; 6:12; 8:7-13; 9:27; 10:31; Luke 6:31; Eph. 5:16 and 1 Timothy 4:12).

## PRINCIPLES

**Sober-mindedness** will cause the young man to carefully examine all kinds of recreation in the light of such Scriptural principles as the following.

1. Will it harm my body or destroy my mind?
2. Does it appeal to any base motive or arouse any lust?
3. Will I become a slave to it?
4. Is it against my conscience?
5. Will it offend my brother?
6. Will it make me more spiritual or less spiritual?
7. Is it worth the time, effort and money?
8. Will it hurt my influence as a Christian?

## A PATTERN

Titus was told to show himself a **pattern** of good works in all things. In doctrine, Titus

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# GETTING RELIGION

Many people have been taught that "**a person must get religion in order to be saved.**" Is this really so? Is this what the Bible teaches? Is it OF FAITH? Can it be taught BY FAITH? It cannot be OF FAITH or taught BY FAITH **unless** God's Word teaches it **since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** (Romans 10:17). Let us consider the following facts:

1. The word "**religion**" does not appear in the Old Testament Scriptures.

2. The word "**religion**" **appears five times in the New Testament Scriptures.** (See Acts 26:5; Galatians 1:13; Galatians 1:14; James 1:26 and James 1:27). The "**religion**" of the Jews is referred to in the first three passages, **vain "religion"** in James 1:26 and **pure "religion"** in James 1:27.

3. The word "**religion**" was never used in the Scriptures to describe something that a person "**gets,**" but it describes what a person **does or practices.**

4. No inspired writer of the Scriptures ever taught men to "**get religion.**"

5. Christ did not teach men to "**get religion.**"

6. "**Pure religion**" is NOT something a person "**gets,**" but it is **doing God's Will!** (See James 1:26-27).

7. **To be saved, one must obey Christ!** (See Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-29; James 1:21-27; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; 6:17-18;

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## YOUNG MEN AND SOUND DOCTRINE

was to show uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity and sound speech. This in turn would cause those who were opposing Titus to be ashamed because they would have no evil thing to say of him. (See Titus 2:7-8). This **pattern of good works** would influence young men to be **sober-minded.**

It is a shame when young men are not properly taught these "things which become sound doctrine.

Are you doing your part to teach and to encourage young men to practice these things? You will give an account unto God for your actions.

Let each of us resolve that we are going to insist on **sound doctrine** in these as well as all other matters.

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## GOD'S WORD IS POWERFUL

The power of God's Word is often overlooked. A study of the Scriptures should impress us with **the power of God's Word.**

1. Psalms 33:6, 8-9 says: **"By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth...Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood still!"**

2. Hebrews 4:12 says: **"For the Word of God is quick, and is 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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."**

3. Romans 1:16 says: **"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."**

4. 1 Cor. 1:21 says: **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

**YES, THE WORD OF GOD IS POWERFUL!**

(CRS)

**THE SHARP-SUTTON DABATE on Holy Spirit Baptism** is scheduled for the week of September 18th, 1978.

## HAWK-SUTTON DISCUSSION

**Ray Hawk** and **Carrol R. Sutton** have signed propositions and an agreement to publicly discuss whether it is Scriptural for churches to contribute funds to benevolents organizations. The discussions are to be conducted in Hobart, Indiana and Lake Station the week of July 24, 1978.

More details will be given later. Make plans to attend.

## THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

We still have no word from either **Albert Hill** of the Hobbs Street "elders" concerning the discussion, but we're still being patient.

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## GETTING RELIGION

Acts 2:38-41; 10:34-35; Rev. 22:14; John 12:48; 2 Thess. 1:6-9).

**NO**, the idea that **"a person must get religion in order to be saved"** is **NOT OF FAITH** and thus it cannot be taught **BY FAITH!** It is "an imagination" that exalts itself against "the knowledge of God."

(CRS)

## Sentence Sermons

The company we choose is always an index of our character.

It is better to walk along slowly on the right road, than to march confidently along the wrong

You cannot keep trouble from coming into your home, but you don't have to give it a chair to sit on.

The prayer need not be long when faith is strong.

Great ability without discretion usually comes to a tragic end.

We do not need better methods or more money — but we need better men.

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