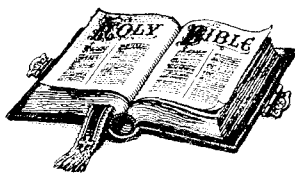


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHY DID INSPIRED MEN WRITE THE NEW TESTAMENT?

It is beyond successful contradiction that **inspired** men wrote the New Testament of Jesus Christ. (See 1 Cor. 2). Yet the New Testament is often misunderstood, misused, and abused. This may be due in part to the fact that many people do not understand **why the New Testament was written**. Let us consider some reasons why the New Testament was written. It was written:

1. **THAT WE MIGHT KNOW THE CERTAINTY OF THE THINGS OF GOD AND UNDERSTAND THE KNOWLEDGE OF INSPIRED MEN.** In writing to Theophilus Luke wrote: "It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, **That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.**" (Luke 1:3-4). In Eph. 3:2-6 Paul said: "If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given to 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)...'**" When we read something in the New Testament we can know of a certainty that it is so!

2. **TO PRODUCE FAITH.** Paul tells us in Romans 10:17 that **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,"** and John tells us that certain "signs" that Jesus did were recorded that we **"might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God..."** (John 20:30-31). Faith comes no other way.

3. **THAT WE MAY KNOW THAT WE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.** John tells us in 1 John 5:13 that we can **"know"** that we have eternal life by what is written. He 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."** You can know by what is written. You can know no other way! No, not even by your feelings, dreams, visions, or human testimonies. The word of God teaches that one must **"obey the gospel"** in order to be saved! (See Rom. 1:16; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; 1 Pet. 1:22-24; James 1:21-25; 2:12; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27).

4. **TO WARN US THAT WE SIN NOT.** Paul said: **"I write not these things to shame you, but as my dearly beloved sons I warn you."** (1 Cor. 4:14), and John said: **"My little children, these things I write unto you, that ye sin not."** (1 John 2:1).

(Continued on page 4)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

IS HELL A PLACE OF TORMENT?

So-called "Jehovah Witnesses" teach that "hell is not a place of eternal torment" and that "only a wicked fiend would want to torment anybody." and that "the doctrine of eternal torment is unjust." (THE HARP OF GOD, Pages 53, 49, 48). Friends, is this what God's Word teaches? Let us consider the Word of God and see.

A study of the English word "hell" will show that it is used in the King James Version of the Scriptures in different senses. It is sometimes used to mean "the unseen state" or "the unseen world or the realm of the dead" and at other times it means "the place of punishment in the future world." (See YOUNG'S ANALYTICAL CONCORDANCE, Page 474, A NEW GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON TO THE NEW TESTAMENT by G.R. Berry, Pages 3, 21 and A GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT by Joseph H. Thayer, Page 11, 111).

JESUS WARNED ABOUT HELL

In Matthew 5:22 Jesus said that "whosoever shall say, thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." and in Matthew 23:33 he mentioned "the damnation of hell." We learn from Matthew 10:28 that God "is able to destroy (that is, "to devote or give over to

eternal misery," THAYER'S LEXICON, Page 64) both soul and body in hell." (See also Luke 12:5). Jesus further said: "...It is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:43-44).

A LAKE OF FIRE

Jesus said: "...It is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:45-46). We read in Matthew 13:41-42 that "the Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Revelation 14:10-11 says: "the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night..."

In speaking of "the beast" and "the false prophet" John said: "These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." (Revelation 19:20). We read in Revelation 20:10 that "the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." We also read in Revelation 20:15 that "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

We learn from 2 Peter 2:9 that "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" and we are told in Matthew 25:41 that the Lord will say unto those on His left hand. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthews 25:46 tells us that the wicked "shall go away into everlasting punishment..." Those who "obey not the gospel...shall be punished with everlasting destruction..." (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

YES, without doubt, HELL IS A PLACE OF ETERNAL TORMENT!

(CRS)

MAY WOMEN SERVE AS ELDERS AND DEACONS?

When there are men who are Scripturally qualified, it is God's plan that there be **"elders"** and **"deacons"** in each congregation. **Elders** are **"bishops"** or **"overseers."** **Deacons** are special servants. There is to be a plurality of elders in each local church. (See Acts. 14:23; 20:17; 20:28; Phil 1:1). Elders are limited in oversight to **"the flock of God which is among"** them. (See 1 Peter 5:1-4). Elders who **"rule well"** are to **"be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in word and doctrine."** (See 1 Tim. 5:17).

In recent years some churches (denominations) have appointed **women** to serve as **"elders"** and **"deacons."** Is this practice right? Does God approve of it? Is it **of faith?** Can it be practiced **by faith?** It can not be **of faith** nor practiced **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. The **elders of the church** at Ephesus had been made **"overseers"** of the **flock** by the Holy Spirit and were to **"feed the flock."** (See Acts 20:17, 28). NOTE: If **women** may be **"elders,"** they may be **overseers.** However, the place of women is a place of **subjection to men.** Paul said: **"Let the woman learn in silence, with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence** (1 Tim. 2:11-12) and **"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law, And if they will learn anything, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."** (1 Cor. 14:34-35). He also said: **"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."** (1 Cor 11:3). It is quite obvious from a reading of these verses that women can not Scripturally serve as **"elders"** or **"overseers"** of a church.

2. The apostle Paul said: **"A bishop then MUST BE BLAMELESS, THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE,..."** (1 Tim. 3:1-2). Compare Titus 1:5-9 that teaches the same thing and where the word **"elder"** and **"bishop"** are used to refer to the same person. NOTE: In order for a woman to be an **"elder"** or **"bishop"** she would have to BE THE HUSBAND OF ONE WIFE! This alone

would definitely rule out women from being **"elders."**

3. In giving the qualifications of **"deacons,"** Paul stated that **"the deacons BE THE HUSBANDS OF ONE WIFE, ruling their children and their own houses well."** (1 Tim. 3:12). NOTE: Unquestionably this indicated that **MEN, NOT WOMEN,** are to serve as **"deacons."**

NO, women can not be **"elders"** or **"deacons"** BY FAITH! Only man-made organizations which have no respect for God's word will tolerate such!

(CRS)

SINLESS PERFECTION?

Christians teach that **"If we (those of us who are Christians) say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."** Is this teaching true? Is it taught in God's Word? Is it **of faith?** Can it be advocated **by faith?** It is **not of faith** and can not be advocated **by faith** unless it is taught in God's Word since **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** (Rom. 10:17). Please consider what the Word of God says along this line.

The Apostle John said: **"If we (John and other Christians—CRS) say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."** (1 John 1:8). NOTE: Obviously, John is teaching that those who claim that they live ABOVE SIN **do not have the truth in them!** They are deceivers! Nothing could be plainer along this line!

Although false teachers advocate the doctrine that is commonly called **"sinless perfection,"** I have yet to see one of them who truly lives faithfully to the Lord—to say nothing of living **sinlessly perfect!** If you ever meet one, please introduce him to me.

YES, the teaching that **"if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us"** IS OF FAITH AND CAN BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH!

(CRS)

THE HAWK-SUTTON DEBATE

The **Hawk-Sutton Debate** is now history. It was conducted July 24-27, 1978 in Hobart & Lake Station, Indiana. It was well attended. Interest was high. Decorum was excellent. We believe that much good was done. It may be printed. We hope so.

WHY DID INSPIRED MEN WRITE THE NEW TESTAMENT?

5. THAT WE MAY HAVE "THESE THINGS ALWAYS IN REMEMBRANCE" AND THAT OUR JOY MAY BE FULL. Peter said: **"Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance."** (2 Pet. 1:15). A careful study of 2 Pet. 1:2-16 and 2 Pet. 3:1-3 will indicate that one of the reasons Peter wrote his epistles was to enable others after his death to learn and know the things of God. John said: **"And these things we write unto you, that your joy may be full."** (1 John 1:4).

6. TO EXHORT US TO EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH. Jude 3 says: **"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** The need to contend for the faith still exists today. We should emulate the apostle Paul in "contending for the faith." (See Acts 17:2-18; 18:4; Acts 19:8-10; Eph. 4:1-16).

Each one of us should endeavor to use the New Testament for the reasons that it was wrtten. It will judge us at the last day.
(CRS)

SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

The **Sutton-Sharp Debate** is scheduled to be conducted September 18, 19, 21 & 22, 1978 at 7:30 each evening. It will be held at the building of the **East Albertville Church of Christ**, 1107 Highway 431 South, Albertville, Alabama.

Tom Sharp of Florence, Alabama is a preacher in the **United Pentecostal Church**. He is an experienced debater and is a very capable man. He will conduct himself as a gentleman.

The subject to be discussed is **Holy Spirit Baptism**. Mr. Sharp believes the Holy Spirit Baptism is for believers today. Carrol R. Sutton does not believe it is for believers today.

For accommodations please contact Carrol R. Sutton, 1103 Edmondson Street, Albertville, Alabama 35950. Phone 878-0920

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE

As soon as we receive word from either **Albert Hill** or the West Hobbs Street "elders" concerning the proposed debate, we will pass the information on to you.

Sentence Sermons

It is more important to get in the first thought than the last word.

Don't be yourself, but be what you ought to be.

When a person strikes in anger, he usually misses the mark.

Atheism never wrote a line that was comforting on a death bed.

To change one's character, we must begin at the control center—the heart.

Time spent in pitying oneself is worse that a waste of time.

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