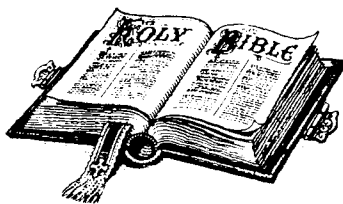


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 8

"FEAR YE NOT ME?"

"Fear ye not me? saith the Lord: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?" (Jeremiah 5:22).

The incredible fact was that the people did not have a reverence and awesome regard for God. Their religious professions were vain; their devotion was shallow; their morals, sick; their loyalty, long departed; their disposition, smug complacency and self satisfaction. **"But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone."** (Jeremiah 5:23).

Equally incredible is the fear man has for man. Many a man is prevented from committing a crime for fear of being caught and punished — by man. The hypocrite is careful to appear righteous; his ungodliness and evil is committed in secret; he covets praise and shuns censure — from men. The knowledge that God beholds every crime, lust and sin is not a sufficient deterrent, nor the certainty of His judgment.

In the absence of a sobering and wholesome fear of God, man's course at

best is lacking in wisdom and his destiny is damnation. **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . ."** (Proverbs 9:10). Is it not utterly folly to disregard Him who made the worlds, who set the bounds of the sea, the stars in place, and all that is? who made life itself? who made man, body and spirit, creating him in His image, an immortal soul? How profound a regard is due such a God; how fearful to displease Him and invoke His eternal wrath.

Let us know every waking moment that God beholds. There is no person, nor deed, but what is manifest in His sight. And judgment! How true the words of Jefferson: "I fear for my countrymen when I remember that God is just." As He Himself hath arrestingly said: **"Fear ye not me?"**

— **Jere E. Frost** in 77th St. BIBLE EXALTER, July 12, 1962.

YOU'RE BOUND TO TOUCH
SOME OTHER LIFE
BY WHAT YOU SAY AND DO,
SO NEVER THINK THAT WHEN
YOU SIN
IT INJURES ONLY YOU.

—PULPIT HELPS

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 17)

Our investigation last month **proved** by the Scriptures that the teaching that **"There is nothing in a name"** is false doctrine. The fact that multitudes of people assert such teaching over and over does not **prove** it to be in harmony with God's truth.

We hereby challenge those who advocate that **there is nothing in a name to prove** by the Scriptures that such is the case. The fact that hundreds of men who have preached for "fifty years" believe and teach that **"there is nothing in a name"** does not mean that such a doctrine is true. The Scriptures are the **standard** by which such teaching is to be "weighed", "measured", or examined.

Number fourteen is the next item to be examined in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under **"Specific Wickedness"** for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in # 14) has been requested. It reads as follows:

"14. Alien sinners may pray through to salvation."

COMMENTS: The idea that alien sinners (those who are accountable to God who are **not** His children and thus are **lost** in sin) may be saved by prayer is a prevalent one. Many preachers believe and preach that "alien sinners should find an old-fashioned altar somewhere and pray through to salvation." A number of television and radio

preachers will encourage sinners to repeat after them a prayer that goes something like this: "God, I confess unto thee my sins. I accept Jesus Christ into my heart as my personal Saviour," or something along this line. It is a common practice among many denominational churches to invite and urge sinners to "come to the altar and pray for salvation." It seems that "multitudes" accept without question this teaching. However "appealing" and "attractive" this doctrine may be, when it is candidly examined in the light of God's Word, it will be found to be a **false doctrine!**

A consideration of the following facts and principles should enlighten any seeker of truth that such teaching is **without Scriptural basis.**

1. **Prayer** is man speaking to God. It is the thoughts and desires of the heart expressed. Prayer may consist of praise, thanks, confession, petition and intercession. Prayer may be either private or public.

2. Under the Old Testament law, Solomon said: **"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."** (Proverbs 28:9). NOTE: In order for God to hear the prayer of those under the law, it was **essential** that they **listen to the law!** If they would not listen to God's law, their prayers were an **abomination!**

3. We learn from Isaiah 59:1-2 that iniquities separated between God and His people, and their sins hid God's face from them that **God would not hear!** God's ear was **not** heavy that it **could not hear**, but it **would not hear!** Neither would the Lord's hand save!

4. David, a man after God's own heart, said: **"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will NOT hear me."** (Psalms 66:18). QUESTION: What makes one think that God will save alien sinners because they pray in view of the fact that the Lord would **not hear** David when he prayed if he regarded iniquity in his heart?

5. The blind man, whose eyes Jesus opened, said: **"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth."** (John 9:31). COMMENTS: Some try to

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discredit this statement by stating that this man was **not** an **inspired** man. The fact that this man was an **uninspired** does **not** necessarily mean that he did not state the truth. In fact, his statement is in harmony with all the **inspired** information that we have on the subject.

6. God's people, the Jews, had gone so far into sin at the time under consideration in Jeremiah 11:14 that God said: "**Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I WILL NOT HEAR THEM in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.**"

7. The apostle Peter says: "**For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and HIS EARS ARE OPEN UNTO THEIR PRAYERS: But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.**" (1 Peter 3:12). NOTE: This verse specifically says **the ears of the Lord are open unto the prayers of the righteous!** His face is against evil doers! Alien sinners are evil doers. These facts are in harmony with the statement in John 9:31.

8. The apostle John said: "**And whatsoever we ask we receive of him, BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, and DO THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PLEASING IN HIS SIGHT.**" (1 John 3:22). NOTE: Alien sinners **do not keep** God's commandments and **do not** do those things that are pleasing in His sight!

9. Alien sinners are servants of sin and are thus children of the devil. (See John 8:34; 1 John 3:8-10; John 8:44). They are of their father the devil. As children of the devil, they have no assurance that when they address God as their father that He will hear them.

10. Jesus taught His disciples to **pray** after this manner, saying, "**Our Father**, which art in heaven, . . ." (See Luke 11:1-4). NOTE: If one is **not** a child of God, **his** father is **not** in heaven.

OBSERVATIONS:

1. There is **no command** in the Scriptures for alien sinners to pray for salvation.

2. There is **no example** in the New

Testament where any alien sinner ever **was saved** by praying through!

3. There is **no necessary implication** in the New Testament that an alien sinner **may** pray through to salvation.

4. When Jesus gave the great commission He told the apostles to "**Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED: but he that believeth not shall be damned.**" (Mark 16:15-16). NOTE: Prayer **cannot** be substituted for belief and baptism! The **King** has spoken!

5. In Acts 2:37-38 when the Jews heard the preaching and were pricked in their hearts and asked the apostles, "What shall we do?", the apostle Peter said; "**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, . . .**" NOTE: In Acts 2:21 Peter had already told these people that "**whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**" Peter now tells them what they must do in order to "**call on the name of the Lord**" in order to be saved. **FURTHER NOTE:** Prayer **cannot** be substituted for **repentance and baptism!**

6. In reply to the question, "**what must I do to be saved?**", the jailor was told to "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**" Paul and Silas then spake unto him (and those in his house) **the word of the Lord**. On **hearing the Lord's word**, the jailor **was baptized** the same hour of the night. He then "**rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.**" (See Acts 16:31-34). NOTE: The jailor was **not** told to "say the sinner's prayer" or to "get on your knees and pray through to salvation" He was told to **BELIEVE**. He was **taught** the word of the Lord that produces faith and **he was baptized!**

7. When Saul of Tarsus said: "**Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**", the Lord told him to "**Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.**" (See Acts 9:6). Although Saul was a **praying, fasting, penitent believer**, three days after he conversed with the Lord, in Damascus, he was told to "**. . . Arise,**"

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and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (See Acts 9, 22 & 26). NOTE: His **praying** had **not** removed his sins!

8. A penitent believer is "**baptized INTO Christ.**" (See Gal. 3:26-27 & Romans 6:1-5). NOTE: There is **no evidence** that **prayer** puts one "**into Christ.**"

CONCLUSIONS:

1. The fact that an alien sinner prays will **not** save him from sin. NOTE: Cornelius "**prayed to God** **always**" but he was **lost**. His "prayers" and "alms" went up for a memorial before God. His "prayer" was "heard" in some sense but it did **not** save him. He had to **hear "words"**, **believe** and be **baptized** in order to be saved. (See Acts 10:34-48 & 11:14-18).

2. **Prayer** is **not** a condition that an alien sinner must meet in order to be saved from his past sins. NOTE: If it is, then someone should show the Scripture or Scriptures that teach it.

3. In order to be saved, alien sinners **must believe** that God is and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, **repent, confess faith** in Christ and **be baptized** in water! (See Hebrews 11:6; John 20:30-31; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27). NOTE: Prayer cannot be substituted for **faith and obedience to God's will!** Please also read Matthew 7:21-23 very carefully.

When a person **presumes** to speak the doctrine that "**alien sinners may pray through to salvation**" in the name of Christ, **he is speaking presumptuously** and is teaching **false doctrine** because such is **not** taught in God's word! **The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!** We should so "**speak**" and so "**do**" as those who will be **judged "by the law of liberty."** (See James 1:25).

Let us remember that the Lord said: "**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word which I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**"

(CRS)

(To be continued)

SENTENCE SERMONS

Confessing your sins is no substitute for forsaking them.

* * * *

Sin may be very sweet in the beginning, but it is bitter in the end.

* * * *

God puts the church in the world, but Satan puts the world in the church.

* * * *

Don't fret over what you would do with your time if you could live it over again. Make sure you properly use what time you have left.

* * * *

He is your friend who tells you the truth (as revealed in the gospel) and urges you to believe and obey it.

* * * *

To grow tall spiritually, a man must first learn to kneel.

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