

# 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 28

AUGUST, 1991

Number 8

## **"NOT EVERYONE"**

A careful study of the New Testament Scriptures should convince every person who has **"an honest and good heart"** of the following facts.

1. **NOT EVERYONE IS HONEST.** In 1 Timothy 4:1-2 Paul speaks of the fact that **"in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; SPEAKING LIES IN HYPOCRISY: having their conscience seared with a hot iron."** Hypocritical liars are **not** honest! We learn from Titus 1:10-14 that some preach false doctrine for **"filthy lucre's sake"** and we learn from 2 Peter 2:1-3 that **false teachers will "through covetousness" with "feigned words make merchandise of you."**

2. **NOT EVERYONE LOVES THE LIGHT.** Although Jesus is **"the light of the world"** (John 8:12) and the entrance of God's Word **"giveth light"** (Cf. Psa. 119:130) we learn from John 3:19 that **"men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."** Also see 2 Thess. 2:10-12; 2 Cor. 4:4; Psa. 119:127-128.

3. **NOT EVERYONE WILL BE SAVED.** Jesus said: **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."** (Mt. 7:21). We learn from Mt. 7:13-14

that **"many"** will go down the **"broad"** way that leads to destruction and that **"few"** will find and travel the **"narrow"** way that leads to life. Also see Mt. 25:31-46; Acts 13:46; John 5:40; 1:11 and Mt. 23:33.

4. **NOT EVERYONE WHO IS RELIGIOUS WILL BE SAVED.** In Mt. 7:21-23 Jesus said that in the last day he will say to many who have been religious to **"Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."** Judas was a religious man, but he died **"that he might go to his own place."** (Acts 1:25). The Pharisees were religious but lost. (See Mt. 23). There are many religious people today who, no doubt, are lost.

5. **NOT EVERYONE WHO HAS FAITH WILL BE SAVED.** Certainly, faith in God and in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is essential to salvation but a person may have faith and still be lost! James 2:24 says: **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and NOT BY FAITH ONLY."** In John 12:42-43 **the chief rulers also "believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God."** Also see Mt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14; Gal. 5:6; 1 Pet. 4:17-18 and 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

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(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

### *Editorial . . .*

## WHY SO MUCH DIVORCE? (Concl.)

In our previous article we stated that divorce is **not** prevalent **"because it is impossible to understand God's truth concerning divorce."** We also stated clearly that **"It IS possible to understand God's will for man"** and gave Eph. 5:17; Eph. 3:2-6; Psalms 119:103, 130 and Romans 12:9 as evidence that a person can understand the will of God. We suggested that **"evil influences"** such as television, movies, and the **"women's liberation movement"** and **"emphasis on material things"** contribute to so many divorces. Let us now continue our study of some things that may play a part in influencing men and women to divorce.

### WEAK MARRIAGES

Marriages are **not** necessarily and automatically strong. Strong marriages must be developed and built. A marriage will not be strong nor remain strong without sincere desire and efforts by both husband and wife to have a strong marriage. It is easy for a **weak** marriage to end up in divorce. Without question, **weak** marriages contribute to the rise in divorce. With proper desire and efforts weak marriages can be strengthened and divorces may be avoided. Both husband and wife should learn their God given responsibilities as set forth

in the Scriptures and **earnestly strive to fulfil them.** A study of Eph. 5:22-33; 1 Cor. 7:1-12; 1 Peter 3:1-7 and 1 Cor. 13:4-7 should be made often. True love, genuine respect, trust and honor for each other will certainly strengthen a marriage. Unselfishness should characterize both parties.

### FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

I am convinced by observation that marriage counselors are correct when they say that **"financial problems"** are a major contributing factor in many divorces. These problems arise in families who have adequate finances (or more) available as well as in families with very low incomes. **"Finances"** may create problems in a number of ways because of who controls the finances or for what the finances are spent. How much money is spent on recreation may be a cause of friction.

A desire to be rich may cause one to fall into temptation and a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts that may cause a marriage to end in divorce. The apostle Paul said: **"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."** (1 Timothy 6:9-10).

A lack of adequate **"finances"** may put a strain on a marriage. Arguments often arise over **"money matters."** Tempers may flare. Insults may be given and threats may be made and soon divorce is considered by one (or it may also be considered by the other) party as the only **"acceptable solution"** to the **"problem."**

Often times the reason the **"budget"** is in a strain is because the couple (or family) simply lives beyond their means. They live in houses they cannot afford and buy automobiles, furniture,

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appliances, televisions, VCR's, clothes, toys, etc. and take vacations, etc. that they cannot afford. Self denial and sacrifice with a determination to live within their means would remove most of the strain that comes from "financial problems" that often times results in or at least contributes to divorce.

## NOT ACCEPTING THE PERMANENCY OF MARRIAGE

God's Word teaches that marriage is to be permanent. The inspired writer said: **"For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband SO LONG AS HE LIVETH: but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then, if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man."** (Romans 7:2-3). This and other passages such as Gen. 2:24; Luke 16:18; Mark 10:2-12; Matthew 19:3-12 and Matthew 5:31-32 teach that God intended that the marriage between a man and a woman last until the death of one of them. However, the prevalent attitude in today's society (at least in this country) is that if a marriage "doesn't work out" then one can divorce the other one and can marry someone else. This attitude seems to manifest itself in a number of people in the church. Such an attitude is bound to be a contributing factor to so many divorces. We (Christians) must be diligent in teaching and impressing upon all others **the permanency of marriage!**

## THE "NEW MORALITY"

The so-called "New Morality" (which I call sin and wickedness) certainly causes divorces. The "New Morality" is a letting down in morals by yielding to **"the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride**

**of life."** (Cf. 1 John 2:16). Lusts suggested, aroused and encouraged by lascivious dress, speech and actions are allowed to go unbridled and unrestrained. An effort to gratify one's unlawful desires and fulfil one's lusts is a chief cause of divorce. It is selfishness! It is a manifestation of **incontinency!** Perilous times exist in the last days because **"men"** are **"incontinent."** (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:1-5). Those who practice the "New Morality" are in reality engaging in **"the works of the flesh."** (See Gal. 5:19-21).

## DISCONTENT

Discontent may place a strain on a marriage and even result in divorce. Some suppose that **"gain is godliness"** but Paul says the **"godliness with contentment is a great gain"** and **"having food and raiment let us therewith be content."** (See 1 Tim. 6:5-8). The Hebrew writer admonished, **"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and BE CONTENT WITH SUCH THINGS AS YE HAVE: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** (13:5). Learning contentment would lower the divorce rate.

## NOT FEARING THE LORD

A lack of **"the fear of the Lord"** may cause a marriage to end in divorce. When a person unscripturally divorces his or her companion he tells the godly (by his actions) that **"... There is no fear of God before his eyes."** (Cf. Psalms 36:1; Rom. 3:18). Divorce is evil and those who divorce are evil. They do not fear God! **"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil."** (Prov. 16:6). Since **"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil:..."** (Prov. 8:13), those who divorce do not have the fear of the Lord **"before their eyes."**

The prevalence of divorce among God's people is indicative of a **lack of faith in God, a lack of respect for God's will, a lack of concern for the church of God, a lack of love**

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6. NOT EVERYONE WHO PRAYS WILL BE SAVED. Please study Mt. 7:21-23; John 9:31; Prov. 28:9; 1 Pet. 3:12; 1 John 3:22; and 1 John 5:14.

7. NOT EVERYONE WHO WORKS WILL BE SAVED. Those in Mt. 7:21-23 to whom the Lord will say; “. . . I never knew you: depart from me, ye that WORK INIQUITY,” will be lost. They had **worked** but they had **not** worked the works of God. They did their works without authority from Christ. In every nation he who fears God and “**worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**” (See Acts 10:35).

8. NOT EVERYONE IN THE CHURCH OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED ETERNALLY. In the parable of the ten virgins in Mt. 25:1-12 in which the virgins represent citizens in the kingdom we learn that five of them were unprepared to meet the bridegroom and were not allowed to enter with him to the marriage. (Also study Mt. 13:41-41 and 2 Peter 2:20-22.

9. NOT EVERYONE LOVES THE LORD. How do we know that everyone does **not** love God and Jesus Christ His Son? The fact that many do **not** keep the commandments of the Lord

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for one's family and a lack of consideration and/or concern for one's influence.” No **true** concern for truth and righteousness exists when one divorces (unscripturally) his (or her) companion.

So, there are a number of reasons for so much divorce. However, not **one** (or more) of the reasons is **justification** for divorce. Divorce does **not** solve one's problems. It usually adds to and in some ways complicates one's unhappiness. God does **not** approve of **any** divorce unless a person divorces his (or her) companion because that companion has **committed fornication**. Those who divorce (unscripturally) and those who “**go along with**” such divorce will give an account to God in judgment for such. (Cf. Romans 14:12; 2:6; 1 Tim. 5:22).

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is evidence that they do **not** love him. Please study John 14:15; 14:21; 15:14; 1 John 5:1-3; 2:3-6 and Hebrews 5:8-9.

Let each of us listen to God's Word that we may have a strong, obedient faith.

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## — SENTENCE SERMONS —

Since God Already knows His will we should listen to Him as He speaks to us through His Word.

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To be a genuine peacemaker we must truly follow the Prince of Peace.

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You can't go to heaven if you do not start.

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When the outlook is bad, try the uplook.

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