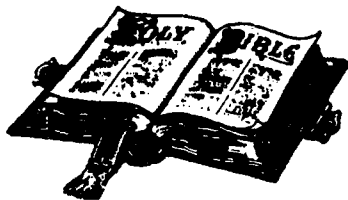


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## CHRISTIANS ARE DISCIPLES

True followers of Jesus Christ are **Christians!** We learn from Acts 11:26 that **"...the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."** The apostle Paul endeavored to persuade men to be **Christians!** In Acts 26:28-29 King Agrippa said unto Paul: **"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would that not only thou, but all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am,..."** Peter, who was also an apostle, taught that a man who suffers **"as a Christian"** should not **"be ashamed"**, but should **"glorify God on this behalf."** Hear Peter as recorded in 1 Peter 4:16: **"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf."**

Let us keep in mind that Christians are disciples! We learn from Acts 14:22 that Paul and Barnabas confirmed **"the souls of the disciples"** in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. Referring to the **disciples** in Troas, Acts 20:7 says: **"And upon the first day of the**

**week, when the disciples come together to break bread, Paul preached unto them,..."**

A **Christian** is a **disciple!** Moses' disciples **learned** what Moses taught! (See John 9:28). The disciples of John **learned** what John taught! (See Luke 11:1). **We**, who are **disciples of Christ**, are **learners!** We receive instruction from Jesus Christ as revealed in the New Testament! There are a number of reasons why **we should be learners!** Here are some of them.

1. One must **learn** in order to go to Christ! Jesus said: **"No man can come to me, except the Father... draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets. And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."** (John 6:44-45).

2. One must **learn** in order to find rest! (See Mt. 11:28-30)

3. One must **learn** in order to be wise unto salvation! (See 2 Timothy 3:15).

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## **THE INSTRUCTOR**

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## **Editorial ...**

### **SAVING FAITH IS A FAITH THAT OBEYS**

We must **believe** (i.e., **have faith**) in order to be saved from past sins and also in order to receive **eternal salvation**! Listen to the **Word of God** in the following passages.

1. Hebrews 11:6- **"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."**

2. Luke 8:12- **"Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."**

3. Acts 10:43- **"...Whosoever believeth in him shall receive the remission of sins."** Also see Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:21; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 5:1; John 1:12; Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 15:9; John 3:16; 5:24; 3:36; 6:47; 20:30-31.

4. Mark 16:16- **"...But he that believeth not shall be damned."** In the book of Romans Paul mentions **"...the obedience to the faith..."** (1:5) and also **"...the obedience of faith."** (16:26). We learn from these expressions that **"the faith" can** (and must be) **obeyed**

and that one's personal **"faith" can** (and it must) **obey**! So, one's personal **faith** should (and it will if it is genuine) motivate one to **obey "the faith"** (i.e., the system of faith, the Word of God, the gospel)!

The principle that **faith must act** in order to **avail** is set forth by the apostle Paul in Galatian 5:6. As recorded there, Paul declared: **"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith which worketh by love."** It is a fact! To avail, **faith must work**! Not only must **faith work**, it must work by love!

Let us consider some examples of men who were blessed because of their **faith**! Please observe the fact that the desired result or blessing that came by **faith ALWAYS** came **AFTER faith acted or worked**!

1. Hebrews 11:4- **"By faith Abel OFFERED unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous..."**

2. Hebrews 11:7- **"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, MOVED with fear, PREPARED AN ARK to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."**

3. Hebrews 11:8- **"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, OBEYED; and WENT OUT, not knowing whither he went."**

4. Hebrews 11:9- **"By faith he (Abraham) SOJOURNED in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise."** Verse 10 says: **"For he looked for a city which hath foundations,**

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## HEARING

**whose builder and maker is God."**

5. Hebrews 11:17- **"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, OFFERED UP Isaac: and he that had received the promises OFFERED UP HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON."**

6. Hebrews 11:24-26- **"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, REFUSED TO BE CALLED the son of Pharaoh's daughter; CHOOSING rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."**

7. Hebrews 11:29- **"By faith they PASSED THROUGH THE RED SEA as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned."**

8. Hebrews 11:30- **"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, AFTER they WERE COMPASSED ABOUT seven days."**

NOTE: In every case mentioned above, **faith** did **not** stand **ALONE**! **Faith** **ACTED**! **Faith** **WORKED**! **Faith** **OBEYED** **God's will**!

**SAVING faith** will do what **God** **says**! In fact, **faith** does **NOT** **save** **BEFORE** it **OBEYS**! NOTE: The walls of Jericho **fell down** by faith **AFTER** they were compassed about seven days as per God's instructions!

The kind of **faith** that **obeys** **God** comes **by** **hearing** the Word of God! (See Romans 10:17). That is why it is absolutely essential that we preach (or teach) **"the word of faith"** that inspired men in the first century preached! (See Romans 10:8). **True faith** does **NOT** come by hearing human traditions, preferences, or emotional feelings!

If faith is **genuine**, it will do **WHAT** **God** **says**, in the **WAY** **God**

**says** for the **PURPOSE** **God** **says**! **Faith** will so act regardless of circumstances or consequences! **OBSERVATION**: It was the Lord Jesus Christ who plainly declared: **"He that believeth and IS BAPTIZED shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:16).

Of course, other passages teach that **other** things are **required** by the **Lord** (such as **repentance** and **confession of faith in Christ**) in order for a sinner to be saved from his past sins! Then, as a child of God, one must **continue** to **OBEY** the **Word of God**!

Jesus Christ also said: **"He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that OBEYETH NOT the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."** (John 3:36 Revised Standard Version). NOTE: Where the RSV says **"obeyeth not"** the King James Version says **"believeth not."**

The following passages emphasize the fact that one must **OBEY** **God** in order to be saved.

1. Matthew 7:21- **"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."**

2. Hebrews 5:9- **"And being made perfect he (the Son -CRS) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that OBEY him."**

3. 1 Peter 1:22- **Seeing ye have purified your souls in OBEYING the truth..."**

4. Revelation 22:14- **"Blessed are they that DO his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."**

Do you have **saving faith**? If your faith does not cause you to **OBEY** the **Lord**, it is **NOT** **saving faith**! (CRS)

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### **CHRISTIANS ARE DISCIPLES**

4. One must **learn** in order to receive faith! (See Romans 10:17).

5. One must **learn** in order to do the will of God! NOTE: One cannot do the will of God **unless** he **learns** what that will is! (See Ezra 7:10; John 7:16-17; Phil. 4:9 & Matthew 7:21).

6. One must **learn** in order to teach others! (See Matthew 28:19-20 & 2 Timothy 2:2).

To **learn** the will of Christ in all matters **we must listen to ALL that Christ has spoken!** (See Acts 3:22-23).

In the last day **we will be judged by the words of Jesus Christ!** (See John 5:22 & John 12:48).

Are **YOU** a **learner of the will of Christ?** If not, then you are **NOT** a **Christian!**

(CRS)

### **SOME THINGS WE NEED TO LEARN**

1. The value of time.
2. The need of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of serving.
4. The nobility of honest labor.
5. The wisdom of economy.
6. The dignity of simplicity.
7. The obligation of duty.
8. The true worth of character.
9. The pleasure of serving.
10. The power of kindness.
11. The influence of example.
12. The teachings of Christ who said, **"Learn of me."**

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

A series of **GOSPEL MEETINGS** will be conducted **September 24 - 29, 1995** in **EAST ALBERTVILLE**. The time will be **7:00 PM Monday through Friday** and **9:30 AM; 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM** on **Sunday**. **E.R. HALL Jr. of Wise, VA** will be preaching! **All are invited!**

### **- SENTENCE SERMONS -**

To hear the call of God, one must be in hearing distance!.

\* \* \* \* \*

The right talk is no substitute for the right walk!

\* \* \* \* \*

Starting tomorrow does not accomplish anything today!

\* \* \* \* \*

There is a vast difference between principles and prejudices!

\* \* \* \* \*

There are no traffic jams on the straight and narrow way!

### **CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**4777 U.S. Highway 431**  
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