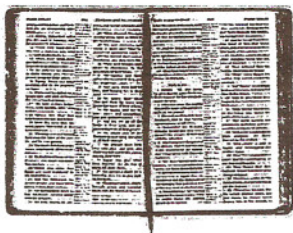


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 45

AUGUST, 2008

Number 8

## GOD'S "TESTIMONIES ARE WONDERFUL."

Psalms 119 as a whole refers to God's Word in some way. There are a number of words (such as precepts, statutes, commandments, law, etc.) used to refer to it. In verse 129 the psalmist said to the Lord, "**Thy testimonies are wonderful.**..."

Let us now consider why the Lord testimonies are wonderful. They are wonderful because of:

I. **THEIR AUTHOR.** A reading of the following verses will inform us as to who gave the Scriptures. (Heb. 1:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-20; 1 Cor. 2:9-11; Heb. 12:25).

II. **THEIR COMPLETENESS.** We learn from Psalms 19:7 that "**The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul**". Read and study carefully 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3; James 1:25; Jude 3; Gal. 1:8-9; Rev. 22:18-19.

Yes, the Scriptures are a complete standard and guide in religious matters today.

III. **OF THEIR DEPTH.** Psalms 92:5 says: "**O Lord, how great are thy works! And thy thoughts are very deep.**"

Also read Isa. 28:29; 55:8-9; Rom. 11:33-34.

### IV. **OF THEIR POWER!**

Many people have no idea as to how powerful the Word of God is. Read carefully Psalms 33:6-9; Gen. 1:3; Heb. 11:3; 4:12; 2 Pet. 3:5; Rom. 1:16; 10:17; James 1:25; 1:21; Acts 20:32; John 8:31-32; 15:3; 17:17; Psalms 119:130, etc. and you should be impressed with the power of God's Word!

### V. **OF THEIR DURATION.**

Most things with which we are familiar and have to do are temporary in nature. This is not true of "**the testimonies of the Lord.**" They are eternal in nature. Jesus said that "**Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away**" (Mt. 24:35). 1 Pet. 1:22-25 says: "**...the word of God which liveth and abideth for ever...**"

### VI. **OF THEIR COMFORT.**

See Rom. 15:4 & 1 Thess. 4:14-17.

VII. **THEY WILL JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY!** See John 12:48; Rom. 2:16 & James 2:12.

Do you sincerely desire to understand the Scriptures? (CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950.

## Editorial...

### DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? (Part 1)

The popular idea in the religious world is that it does not matter what one believes, teaches and practices religiously, but this principle is not accepted in other walks of life.

If it does not make any difference what one believes, teaches and practices, then those who are murderers, drunkards, fornicators, liars, thieves, etc. in the "name of religion" can believe, teach and practice such and still be saved eternally.

If it doesn't matter what one believes, teaches or practices, then one can believe and teach that one church (or religion) is just as good as another. Do you believe this to be so? Or one may believe and teach that salvation is by "faith alone." Do you accept that teaching? Or one may believe and teach that that it is impossible for a child of God to fall from grace? Is this your be-

lief? Suppose a person believes and teaches that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God, but He was an imposter? Does it really matter? Of course, it really matters!

Suppose a person believes and teaches that there is no God? Does it make any difference? Of course, it makes a difference - a major difference! (See Ps. 14:1).

NOTE: In each of the above cases it really does make a difference what a person believes, teaches and practices!

A careful study of the following passages will indicate the need for all of us give diligence in our study of the Scriptures that we may properly understand them, believe and practice them and teach them to others. (Jeremiah 10:23; Psalms 119:105, 130; Prov. 14:12; Isaiah 55:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Tim. 2:15; Luke 4:4; 1 Peter 4:11; 1 Thess. 5:21; Rev. 2:2; Romans 10:12-18; Matt. 7:15-16).

FURTHER NOTE: Yes, it does really make a difference!

### DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE:

#### I. WHAT IS PREACHED?

Read Rom. 10:17; Psalms 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:1-4; 2 Cor. 4:5; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Gal. 1:6-12; 2 John 9-11, etc. very carefully and you will see that it does make a difference as to what is preached!

#### II. WHICH CHURCH A PERSON IS A PART OF AND SUPPORTS.

(1) There are many churches but only one of which Jesus is the builder. (Matt. 16:18).

(2) Jesus is the foundation of His church only. (1 Cor. 3:11).

(3) Jesus purchased His church (and no other) with His blood. (Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25).

(4) His church is the one body that is mentioned in the New Testament of which He is the head. (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Mt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16; Heb. 12:23).

(5) Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the body, the church! (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:47).

(6) The church that Jesus Christ built was established on the day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2. It came when the Holy Ghost came with power! (See Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8 & Acts 2:1-4).

(7) Every house built by men (and not by the Lord) is built in vain (Psalms 127:1) and every plant of men is destined to **"be rooted up"** (Mt. 15:13).

NOTE: Yes, it is obvious from the reading of the Scriptures that it does make a difference as to which church a person upholds and supports. One church is not as good as another!

### III. WHAT LAW WE ARE UNDER – THE OLD OR THE NEW? THE FIRST OR THE SECOND?

(1) **"The law was given by Moses, but truth and grace came by Jesus Christ."** (John 1:17). **"The law"** of this passage was the old covenant, the first testament and **"truth and grace"** was the new covenant, the second testament.

Jesus declared that He did not come **"to destroy the law and the prophets, but to fulfil."** He also stated that no part of the law would pass away **"till all be fulfilled"** (Mt. 5:17-18). Read John 17:4 & John 19:30. NOTE: **"The law and the prophets"** were fulfilled and therefore were no longer in effect as law.

(2) Read Col. 2:14-17; Eph. 2:14-17 Rom. 7:4 and Rom. 8:1 and be impressed with the fact that the law was nailed to the cross and was blotted out. Therefore it is no longer in force.

(3) The following passages (Gal. 3:24-25; 6:2; 1 Cor. 9:21; Heb. 9:14-17; 7:22; 8:6-7; 10:9-10; James 2:12) show that we are under **"truth and grace"**, the second covenant, the new testament. We are under the law of Christ!

NOTE: Yes, it really does make a difference as to which law we are under and submit ourselves! A big difference!

IV. HOW THE LOST ARE SAVED? Many "ways of salvation" are "offered" in the religious world today. Some teach **"do nothing and be saved."** Some teach **"believe only and be saved"**. Others teach **"go to an altar and pray through to salvation"**, etc. None of these "ways" can save the lost! (See James 2:24; Gal. 5:6; John 12:42-43; 8:30-45).

There are many false ways of salvation but only one true way to be saved. Jesus declared: **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** (John 14:6).

NOTE: If the lost could be saved by "just any way" then it would not matter how they are saved, but it is obvious from John 14:6 that the lost must go through Jesus as the way to the Father to be saved. He is the only way to the Father!

(1) The lost cannot be saved by false ways. We should hate "every false way". (See Psalms 119:104, 127-128). False teaching is a false way. It will not save the lost! "Sincerity alone will save the lost" is a false way. All

doctrines, opinions and schemes of men are false ways and will not save the lost!

(2) Since Jesus Christ is the Saviour, only His gospel will save us. It must be believed and obeyed. (See Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16; 6:1-18; 2 Thess. 1:7-9.

(3) In believing and obeying Jesus Christ it is essential that a person "**believe that he (God) is, and that he us a rewarder of them that diligently seek him**" (Heb. 11:6) and in Jesus Christ as Lord (the Son of God) (see John 20:30-31; Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 16:30-31). One must repent of his sins (see Acts 17:30-31; 3:19; Acts 2:38) and confess his faith in Jesus Christ (see Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37; Mt. 10:32-33). It is also essential that a person be baptized (see Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-38; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:1-18; Gal. 3:26-27; Col. 2:11-13; 1 Cor. 12:13 & 1 Peter 3:20-21).

(4) Obedience to God's will

is certainly necessary in order for a person to be saved eternally. Read the following passages as a seeker and lover of truth and you will see that they certainly teach that one must obey the Word of God in order to go to the Father through Jesus Christ His Son: Mt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8-9; James 1:22; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Lk. 6:46; James 1:25; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rom. 6:17-18; Rev. 22:14; 1 John 2:3 & James 2:12.

NOTE: There is a lot more involved in "Jesus is the way" than many people think!

FURTHER NOTE: Does it really make any difference? You better believe that it does!

(To be continued) (CRS)

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**GOSPEL MEETINGS** AT East Albertville, AL September 21-26, 2008. Regular times on Lord's day. 7pm each week day. Gary Kerr, Preaching. Come! Tell others!

**GOSPEL MEETING** at Clintwood, VA October 26-31, '08 - Carrol R. Sutton, preaching. Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!

## SENTENCE SERMONS

A grudge is too heavy a load for any Christian to carry.

\* \* \* \*

Your word should be given and yet it should always be kept.

\* \* \* \*

An apology can repair many mistakes.

\* \* \* \*

An open mind collects more riches than an open purse.

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