

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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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The word "saved" is used in several different senses in the Bible. For example: Noah was "saved by water" (1 Pet. 3:20), Joseph "saved" the Egyptians (Gen. 47:25, etc. In this article only one type of salvation will be discussed—salvation from past sins. A failure to distinguish between this type of salvation and eternal salvation in heaven is very confusing to one who is seeking to know what to do to be saved.

WHERE THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND

Since the Bible contains two distinct laws, the law of Moses and the law of Christ, both of which could not be effective at the same time (Heb. 10:9), it would be absurd to think that we can find the answer to the above question in any part of the Bible in which we may chance to look. We today are living under the law of Christ as revealed in the New Testament.

The law of Christ did not go into effect until the first Pentecost after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. The events of that memorable day are recorded in Acts 2.

Things that people were told to do before that day are not necessarily the things that people are to do today. In the first four books of the New Testament only those things that Jesus told His disciples to teach after His kingdom or

church was established are required of us today. Jesus' answer to the lawyer (Lk. 10:26) is not applicable to us now, for Jesus' new law did not go into effect until about fifty days later.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

In Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-47 and John 20:21-23, we have a brief statement of what Jesus told His disciples to do when the kingdom or church was established. After telling them to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature He told them, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mk. 16:16). "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem." (Lk. 24:47). "But tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." (Lk. 24:49).

THE GREAT COMMISSION APPLIED

When Peter preached on Pentecost (Acts 2) he preached the gospel of Christ as he had been told to do by Jesus Himself. After explaining the descent of the Holy Spirit as a fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, and then showing that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophecies concerning the promised Messiah, he

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Editorial.....

"Try The Spirits"

In about A.D. 90, John wrote: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1).

In Rev. 2:2 Jesus commended the church at Ephesus by saying: "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and **thou hast tried them** which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." Jesus warns us of false teachers in Matt. 7:15 where he says: "Because of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves." The apostle Paul warned the Ephesian elders saying: "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:29-30). Paul also admonishes Christians to "prove all things; hold fast to that which is good." (1 Thess. 5:21).

From the preceding passages we can clearly see that false teachers were present in the first century, and that others would arise later, and that we have a responsibility to **try or prove** them. The Bereans of old "searched the Scrip-

tures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11). We should be aware of the fact that some will try to deceive with "good words and fair speeches." (Rom. 16:17-18).

Denominational preachers, no doubt deceive more alien sinners than false teachers within the church do, but false teachers from within the church deceive more of God's children than denominational preachers do. Thus alien sinners and children of God should exercise extreme caution as they listen to any person who claims to be teaching the word of God. In fact, John commands us to "believe not every spirit, but **try the spirits** whether they are of God." Jesus warns us to "**beware** of false prophets" and Paul urges us to "**prove** all things" and "hold fast to that which is good".

Do you accept what some preacher or "counsellor" says because you like him? Or do you **test** by the New Testament the things that he teaches? Do you ever call on him for "Book, chapter and verse" for his teaching? How does he react if you do not readily accept his "explanations?" Ask your preacher if he is willing to enter a series of public discussions with those who believe he is teaching error and observe his reactions. Does he try to excuse and justify himself in not "defending" what he says is "the faith" by saying: "I see no point in debating; no good would come of it" or "we're not being troubled on the issue" or "we do not want to give the opposition any publicity?" Friends, these are typical of the statements often made by those who are afraid to have their "views" tested or tried in a series of public discussions. Isn't it strange that those who claim to be "defenders of the faith" would show such weakness and cowardice?

Dear reader, let no man "spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit." (Col. 2:9). Your soul is involved and your eternal destiny is at stake. You cannot afford to be misled. Be sure to "try the spirits", allowing God's Word to be the standard.

(CRS)

James Lewis Dickinson

Bro. Lewis Dickinson was born October 23, 1916 near Haleyville, in Marion County Alabama. He lived in Boaz, Alabama the past twenty-one years. He passed away October 7, 1970 at the age of fifty-three years. He was an active member of the East Albertville Church of Christ and had been for a number of years.

Because of Bro. Dickinson's faith in God, and in Jesus Christ as being the Son of God, and his obedience to the first principles of the gospel, and his obvious sincere efforts to live right as a child of God, we have reason to believe that he has hope of eternal salvation.

Bro. Dickinson did not profess to be great, but do doubt, he desired to be faithful. Although he was not sinlessly perfect, he was a man of faith. His faith was based on God's Word. He studied the Word of God often. Humility was one of his characteristics. His disposition of meekness was observed by those who knew him. No doubt, those who were associated with him were impressed with his sincerity and kindness. Courtesy was one of his traits.

Bro. Dickinson is survived by his wife, two sons, one grandson, his mother, four brothers, one sister, and a host of distant relatives, friends, brethren and sisters in the Lord.

Funeral services were conducted on October 8, 1970 at the East Albertville Church building by Ralph Oliver, Bob Waldron and this writer. John Swatzel directed the prayer at the cemetery. His body was laid to rest in Marshall Memory Gardens to await the coming of the Lord and the resurrection.

Along with many others, we mourn

DANIEL WEBSTER: "If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper. But if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity."

his passing. He is greatly missed. We pray that the God of grace and of all comfort will console, comfort and strengthen all who sorrow.

(CRS)

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

said, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36). This is a very forceful way of telling them to believe that Jesus was the Christ.

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and Brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:37-38.)

In the great commission Jesus said that people were to believe, repent and be baptized in order that their sins be forgiven. Peter preached these same conditions of pardon in the very first sermon after the establishment of the church. An examination of the "Acts of the Apostles" shows that Peter and the other apostles continued to preach these same conditions of remission of sins.

Evidently this is the answer to the question, "What must I do to be saved?" "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41).

—Elam B. Kuykendall in *Gospel Digest*

Is A Car A Car?

You would not call an auto a Ford which had a Dodge body and Buick wheels, even if it had a Ford frame. To be a Ford, it must be so patterned in all its parts. To be a New Testament church, you can't have Luther's teachings, Calvin's Creed, Wesley's methods and the Baptizer's name and still be the original church.

—Selected from *Gospel Minutes*

TELL ME WHY

A boy and a girl, each aged twelve, go riding on bicycles; the boy wears blue jeans and a sport shirt, the girl wears shorts and a blouse.

A boy and girl, each aged eighteen, goes for a picnic; the boy wears slacks and a short-sleeved shirt, the girl wears shorts and a "halter".

A man and a woman, both adults, go fishing; the man wears khaki trousers and a long-sleeved shirt, the woman wears shorts and a low-cut blouse.

A man and a woman, both adults, goes to the country club for nine holes of golf; the man wears slacks and a sport shirt, the woman wears short shorts and a "halter".

A man and a woman, both adults, go to town for shopping; the man wears

a business suit, the woman wears shorts and a blouse.

Tell me, why the difference in dress? In each instance, the temperature is the same for each. The need for comfort is the same for each one. Yet there is a distinct difference in dress! The reason for such undress on the part of the female of the species is not comfort, nor convenience. Quite obviously the undress is to attract the attention of the opposite sex, and she is willing to make a spectacle of herself in order to accomplish the attraction. The woman who is forced to resort to such methods acknowledges her inability and failure to be attractive without the use of extreme immodesty. Needless to say, a Christian woman does not so undress.

—Foster Ramsey, *Floral Heights Mirror*

SENTENCE SERMONS

Some people do not have to turn out the light to be in the dark.

When a man is rich, God gains a partner or the man loses a soul.

The man who expects to go to heaven should take the time to learn what route will get him there.

Although some people never know what they are going to say, they say it anyway.

Nobody else can do the work that God has assigned you.

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