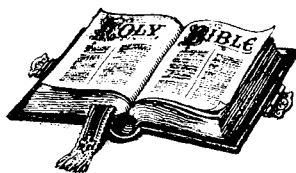


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## FALSE STANDARDS OF AUTHORITY

The only standard of authority for the church of Christ is the words of Christ and the apostles as revealed in the New Testament. However, from time to time, we hear various "false standards" advanced as authority for certain acts. Sectarians have been using these "standards" all along. It is not difficult to find brethren aping them. Acting on the basis of any one of these "standards" would be **unlawful**. Notice now a brief discussion of some false standards:

### **DOES GOOD — MUST BE RIGHT**

We often hear people say of some religious practice: "It **does good**, or it is **good**, therefore it **must be right** (lawful, scriptural)." This is the theory that the end justifies the means. We can do "evil" (unscriptural things) that good may result. (Romans 3:3-8). To be scriptural or lawful a thing must be good, but not all morally good things are right for the church to do. Mechanical music is right in the home; but not in the church. Ham is good at the breakfast table; but not on the Lord's table. Too, some things may be right for an individual or a secular institution to do and not lawful for the church to perform. The

P.T.A. or some civic club might have an auction or box supper, but it would not be right (scriptural) for the church to engage in such practices. One man argued with me that the Nazarene church must be right (lawful), because of the good it was doing and the growth it was making. He was using this false "standard". Because some human institution does a "good work" does not mean that it is right for the church to do this thing. Schools, P.T.A.'s, and other human institutions have human authority for their practices. We must have Divine authority for our practices in the church.

### **GREAT, WISE MEN FAVOR THIS**

Denominational people often quote some "great" religious leaders to prove their point. When, for example, shown from the Bible that baptism is immersion, they quote scholar to "prove" that these great men taught differently and then they will say, "Do you think you are smarter than these men?" They are using a false "standard." Our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (1 Cor. 2:5).

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### RAISING MONEY

Many churches raise funds in order to carry on their work by general begging campaigns and by engaging in secular business activities such as rummage sales, bazaars, pie suppers, candy sales, etc. Are these practices OF FAITH? Can they be advocated BY FAITH? Nothing can be done BY FAITH unless it is authorized in the Scriptures since "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17). Can the above practices be engaged in Scripturally? Let us see. Let us consider the following facts.

1. IN ORDER TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH, the apostle Paul said: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, ..." (1 Corinthians 16:2). This is the only passage that specifically states **how** and **when** the church is to raise funds to carry on its work as a collectivity. This is plain and simple. This is adequate and sufficient. This is God's Word! We dare not add to it or substitute for it! You can not find many churches (comparatively speaking) who are

content with following God's wisdom as revealed in this passage on the matter.

2. THERE IS NO INSPIRED COMMAND, STATEMENT, APPROVED EXAMPLE OR NECESSARY IMPLICATION THAT AUTHORIZES A CHURCH to raise funds to carry on its work by either begging or by sponsoring secular activities such as rummage sales, bazaars, pie suppers, candy sales, etc. Let us read and carefully consider the principles taught in James 1:25 and 1 Corinthians 4:6.

JAMES 1:25 says: "**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**" NOTE: Since the law of liberty is perfect, it is complete, it is all we need to guide us.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:6 says: "**And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written,...**" NOTE: We should learn well the lesson of not going beyond what is written in God's word. Regardless of who may say what, God's word — that which is written — is our standard to follow.

3. THE AFOREMENTIONED PRACTICES (begging campaigns and secular business activities such as rummage sales, bazaars, pie suppers, candy sales, etc.) CAN NOT BE DONE "in the name of," i.e., by the authority of Jesus Christ as taught in Colossians 3:17 since Christ has not authorized such.

COLOSSIANS 3:17 says: "**And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**" NOTE: The expression, "in the name of the Lord Jesus" means **by the authority of Jesus Christ.**

4. THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRACTICES ARE TRADITIONS OF MEN that make void the word of God. Please read and consider very carefully Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13 and Titus 1:13-14. NOTE: When we make void the word of God by traditions of men, it makes our worship in vain and jeopardizes our souls.

5. THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRACTICES CAN NOT BE DONE "to the glory of God," as we are taught in 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Ephesians 3:21).

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## FALSE STANDARDS OF AUTHORITY

There has been only one who didn't make mistakes — Jesus Christ. Even Peter, an apostle, practiced error at one time. (Galatians 2:11ff). We should never have so much confidence in one man or group of men, but that we can remain faithful to God even though they go astray. Brethren are often found using this "standard" by saying:

### THE PRACTICE OF BRETHREN

"Faithful brethren" have practiced this for many years. The statements of the "pioneers," or even some more recent persons, or the activities of some congregation are often cited as authority. One can "prove" the Missionary Society "right" by such pioneers as Campbell, lard, and McGarvey. Practices of churches today can be "proved" right and wrong by the writings of preachers now alive. Some practices can be "proved" right and wrong in the writings of the same man. Men change. Our faith should not stand in them. Some things may be wrong, but if practiced consistently for a long period of time become traditions. The Book of God warns against this. (Matthew 15:1-4; Col. 2:8). Suppose a man or a congregation has practiced something for as many years as they can remember. Does that make the practice right? No — emphatically! The authority of God is the only thing that makes a religious practice right. Have you noticed that when brethren use this false "standard" they are begging the question. When one says that "faithful" brethren have practiced a certain thing, that is assuming the thing to be proved. Were the brethren "faithful" in practicing the particular thing? Again: Our faith must not stand in the wisdom of men — not even our own brethren.

### RATHER DO WRONG THAN NOTHING

When those of us who are content to do God's work in God's way speak out against some practice of our brethren we often hear this false "standard:" "I had rather do **wrong** than do nothing at all." Inactivity is not right, to be sure. One who makes this statement is guilty of fallacious reasoning. He is assuming that the only choices are **wrong** or **nothing**. This is not true. We have the choice of (1) **doing nothing** and being

wrong, (2) **doing wrong**, or (3) **doing right**. Of course we should do the latter.

### DENOMINATIONS ARE DOING IT

Sometimes when contemplating the doing of something, brethren will say: "The denominations are doing this and we need to do it," or "We must make a good impression on the people in our community." God's people have always been warned about **pride**, and trying to please men rather than God. If in pleasing God, it pleases men — good, but we are not to please men at the expense of displeasing God. (1 Thess. 2:4; Gal. 1:10). The Old Testament was written for our learning. We can learn from Israel the danger of wanting to be like the "nations about us." To have a building, radio program, orphanage, hospital, or an advertising program because the denominations have something similar (and usually much better, so far as the mechanics of the thing is concerned) is to act by false authority.

Let those of us who have named the name of Christ be content to do God's will not on the authority of any of these "standards." They, in and of themselves, are not sufficient reason for us to do anything. Let us do God's will because GOD WANTS IT THAT WAY.

--Ferrell Jenkins in THINK, June, 1961

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## RAISING MONEY

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31 says: "**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**" NOTE: Everything that we do should be done to the glory of God.

EPHESIANS 3:21 says: "**Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus...**"

6. SINCE THE ABOVE MENTIONED PRACTICES ARE NOT AUTHORIZED IN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, to engage in such is to transgress God's law. Therefore, it is sinful! (See 2 John 9 & 1 John 3:4).

2 JOHN 9 says: "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God...**"

1 JOHN 3:4 says: "**Whosoever committeth**

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# IS THE CHURCH ESSENTIAL?

If a person is saved, he will be saved by faith. Since faith comes by hearing God's Word, (see Romans 10:17), one must hear God's Word in order to be saved by faith. There are some people who think that **"the church is not essential."** Is this **by faith** or **by opinion**? What saith the Lord concerning this? Let us see.

## IF THE CHURCH IS NOT ESSENTIAL:

1. God **purposed** a non-essential institution. (See Ephesians 3:10-11). Do you believe that God did?

2. The prophets of old **prophesied** of a non-essential institution. (See Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-3; Daniel 2:44). Do you believe the prophets did?

3. Jesus **built** a non-essential institution. (See Matt. 16:18). Do you believe that Jesus did?

4. Jesus **purchased with His blood** a non-essential institution. (See Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25). Do you believe that Jesus did?

5. Jesus **is the head** of a non-essential institution. (See Col. 1:18; Ephesians 1:22-23). Do you believe that Jesus is?

6. God **ordained** that a non-essential institution be **"the pillar and ground of the**  
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NO NEW INFORMATION HAS BEEN  
RECEIVED CONCERNING THE  
HILL-SUTTON DEBATE.

**truth."** (See 1 Timothy 3:15). Do you believe that God did?

7. The **saved are added** to a non-essential institution. (See Acts 2:47). Do you believe that the saved are?

8. Jesus Christ **is the Saviour** of a non-essential institution. (See Ephesians 5:23). Do you believe that Christ is?

9. Jesus Christ **is the foundation** of a non-essential institution. (See 1 Cor. 3:11). Do you believe that Christ is?

10. **Unto God is to be glory** in a non-essential institution **"by Jesus Christ throughout all ages."** (See Ephesians 3:21). Do you believe that there is to be?

**YES, THE CHURCH IS ESSENTIAL!**  
However, **"every plant"** which God has NOT planted **"shall be rooted up!"** (See Matthew 15:13). **This includes every human denomination!**

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## RAISING MONEY

**sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."**

NO, the aforementioned practices **are not of faith and thus can not be advocated by faith!** Those who respect **God's will** will stop practicing such.

(CRS)

## Sentence Sermons

The Christian on his knees sees more than the philosopher on his tiptoes.

They conquer who believe they can.

Remember the kindness of others; forget your own.

The smallest man is the biggest problem.

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on.

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