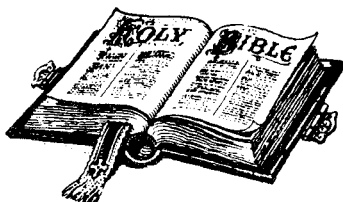


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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WHOM DOES THE TRUTH FREE?

When only half of a thought is read or quoted the entire meaning may be missed. Therefore it is misleading and dangerous to take even the small expression and use it without considering the entire thought of which it is but a part. Words may even convey ideas utterly antagonistic to the thoughts of their author, when not fairly considered as a part of a context, or thought.

Jesus once said, **"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** (John 8:32). These words have been repeated over and again by many people who apparently do not know the thought of which they are a part and to which they are a climax.

Notwithstanding the implications of these isolated words when used by educators as a motto, or when chiseled in the stone of science buildings and literary halls, Jesus is not speaking of the benefits of knowledge. He is declaring the condition upon which one is his true disciple, and the value and benefit that comes from following him. The full quotation is: **"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."** Jesus is not teaching that just any truth (only "my word", spiritual truth) can make anybody free, nor that all who know his word will be made free thereby. The virtue, in the passage, is not in knowing the truth, but in continuing in it. The man who will not

continue in the truth can never hope to be made free by it, regardless of the extensiveness of his knowledge and the richness of his understanding. Jesus' promise is to the man who keeps his word, that he will know the truth, and that as its humble and obedient recipient, he therefore and thereby will be made free.

Check the passage again and note the point as it is developed, step by step. Jesus said: (1) If ye continue in my word, then you are truly my disciple. (2) If you are my disciple, you shall know the truth. (3) The truth makes my disciples free (they continue in it).

Those who do not keep faith with the truth they know, are in reverse order of the above; (1) not made free by truth because (2) they are not Jesus' disciples for (3) they do not continue in his word.

The devils know much Scripture and believe there is one God, but the truth instead of making them free, condemns them. Their guilt is compounded, not diminished, by their knowledge. Countless men have remained in bondage to sin and fear who knew the truth. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent and worthy to be set free, yet passed the sentence for his death. Truth magnified his cowardice and guilt instead of giving him freedom. Paul spoke of those who knew the judgment of God, but nonetheless they did **"commit such things (as) are worthy of death."** (Romans 1:32). They knew

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

“PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN” (No. 21)

Last month we endeavored to answer the request for **Scriptural proof** for certain things, we gave **Scriptural** evidence that the idea that **“It does not matter how a person worships God”** is false. The teaching and practice of the multitudes are not in harmony with God’s truth on the subject of worship. It definitely **does** matter how a person worships God. To worship God acceptably, we **must** worship him **“in spirit and in truth”** according to the words of Jesus Christ in John 4:24.

Those who advocate the teaching that **“It does not matter how a person worships God”** are obligated to **prove** by the Scriptures that such teaching is true. Merely teaching the doctrine does **not prove** it to be truth!

We hereby challenge those who believe that **“It does not matter how a person worships God”** to enter a series of public discussions with us on this question. Will they do it?

Number twenty-one is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under **“Specific Wickedness”** for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in # 21) has been requested. It reads as follows:

“21. Churches may Scripturally encourage the teaching

of false doctrine and the practicing of sin.”

COMMENTS: Although I do not know of a single church that would admit that it may Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin, I could name a large number of churches that are **guilty** of doing just that! Although I have never heard any preacher say that he believes the above statement, I know a large number of preachers who **act** like they believe the Scriptures **do** so teach. They **say** that since the churches are independent and autonomous they have the right to make their own decisions and to act as they choose in matters that pertain to doctrine and practice. NOTE: I, too, believe that churches are independent and autonomous, but I do **not** believe that **any** church or **any** individual has a **Scriptural right** to choose evil or to practice anything sinful!

However, neither the beliefs and/or the actions of churches and preachers determine whether or not the above statement is true. We must appeal to **God’s word** to learn the **truth** on this subject as well as on others. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:4 & James 1:25 & 2:12).

A sincere consideration of the following facts and principles should convince all who desire truth that churches may **not** Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin.

1. The church at Ephesus was commended because it **could not bear** those who were evil and had tried those who said they were apostles and were not and found them to be liars. (Cf. Rev. 2:1-3). The church had fallen by leaving her first love and thus stood in need of repentance. (Cf. Rev. 2:4-5). The church was also commended for **hating** the deeds of the Nicolaitans. (Cf. Rev. 2:6). NOTE: Surely the church had no right to encourage liars and evil doers in their sins.

2. Jesus told the church in Pergamos that He had a few things against it, because it had those there who held the

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doctrine of Balaam and those who held the doctrine of the Nicolaitans which Jesus hated. (Cf. Rev. 2:12-15). The church stood in need of repentance. NOTE: The church was responsible for having those there who held false doctrines.

3. Jesus told the church in Thyatira that he had a few things against it, because it allowed Jezebel to teach and seduce His servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. (Cf. Rev. 2:18-20). NOTE: Obviously the church in Thyatira was held responsible for what it allowed! OBSERVATION: The church was **wrong** in encouraging the teaching of error and the practicing of sin!

4. We learn from Matthew 7:21-23 that those who act without law although they claim they are acting in the name of Christ will be lost. NOTE: If a church does not have **authority** from God to encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin, it is working iniquity when it so acts!

5. In writing to the church of the Thessalonians, Paul said: "**For from you sounded out the word of the Lord . . .**" (1 Thess. 1:8). NOTE: The church did **not** sound out **false** teaching!

6. We learn from Acts 16:5 that "**the churches were established in the faith**". NOTE: They were **not** established in false doctrine, but in the faith! QUESTION: How could the churches be established in the faith if they encouraged the teaching of error and the practicing of sin?

7. In 2 Cor. 6:14-15 Paul very definitely indicates that **righteousness is not to have fellowship with unrighteousness** and that **light does not have communion with darkness**. He also indicates that **Christ does not have concord with Belial and the temple of God does not have agreement with idols**. NOTE: In view of the general principles stated in this passage, we can clearly see that **churches are not to have fellowship with error and sin by encouraging such!**

CONCLUSION: **Righteousness** (whether practiced by churches or by individuals) **does not have fellowship with unrighteousness!**

8. Instead of commending the church at Corinth because it encouraged (by its actions) the practicing of sin, the apostle Paul rebuked it! (See 1 Cor. 1:10-16; 5:1-13; 6:1-8 and 11:17-34.)

OBSERVATIONS: **If churches may Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin, THEN CHURCHES MAY SCRIPTURALLY ENCOURAGE:**

1. The teaching that it is right to play mechanical instruments of music in public worship!

2. The teaching that it is right for churches to donate to human institutions that provide orphan homes, old age homes, schools and even to organizations like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Masonic Lodge and the Roman Catholic Church!

3. The teaching that Jesus Christ will return to earth and establish an earthly kingdom with headquarters in Jerusalem and reign here on earth for one thousand years!

4. The teaching that it does not matter how a person worships God!

5. The teaching that the resurrection is past already!

6. The teaching that a man may divorce his wife for **any** cause and marry as many times as he so desires!

7. The teaching that alien sinners are saved by praying through!

8. The teaching that one church is just as good as another church and God is pleased with all churches!

9. The teaching that it is right to lie, curse, steal, cheat, get drunk, fight, commit fornication and even kill!

10. The teaching that Jesus is **not** the Son of God and that Satan is the creator of heaven and earth and all things therein — and should be worshipped!

11. The practice of playing mechanical instruments of music in public worship!

12. The practice of churches donating money to any human institution of any kind that they choose!

13. The practice of receiving into fellowship **all who claim** to be Chris-

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**PROOF REQUESTED,
PROOF GIVEN**

tians, including those who have been Scripturally “withdrawn from” by true Christians!

14. The practice of harshly criticizing those who contend for the faith!

15. The practice of bidding God speed to known false teachers!

16. The practice of all forms of immorality, including lying, stealing, killing, adultery and homosexuality!

17. The practice of condemning the righteous and justifying the wicked!

18. The practice of worshipping Satan and of rejecting God, Jesus Christ, the Scriptures and everything that is true, honest, good, pure and lovely!

When we consider the principles of truth as set forth in the Scriptures, we must conclude that **God’s word teaches that it is not Scriptural for churches to encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of sin!**

When a person presumes to speak the teaching that **“Churches may Scripturally encourage the teaching of false doctrine and the practicing of**

sin” in the name of Christ, he is speaking **presumptuously** and is teaching **false doctrine** because such teaching is **not** found in God’s Book! The person who so speaks is **guilty of wickedness!** We should **“so speak”** and **“so do”** as those who will be **judged by “the law of liberty”!** (See James 2:12). — (CRS) *(To be continued)*



(Continued from page 1)

**WHOM DOES THE
TRUTH FREE?**

truths of which they were not worthy and to which they were not faithful. Men of this ilk and persistency in sin are not made free simply because they know what is right. Truth does not unequivocally free man — the pro- attitude is equally vital. Jesus said, **“If ye continue in my word, then . . .”**

— Jere E. Frost
via TRUTH AND NEWS

THE PSALMIST SAID:
**“The Lord preserveth the sim-
ple: I was brought low, and he
helped me.” (Psalms 116:6)**

— SENTENCE SERMONS —

The first step in training a child in the way that he should go, is to go that way yourself.

* * * * *

He who takes not counsel beforehand, will usually fail in accomplishing his projects.

* * * * *

Small deeds **done** are better than great deeds **planned**.

* * * * *

He who neglects the present moment throws away **all** the time he **has**.

* * * * *

“Truth, crushed to earth, will rise again; The eternal years of God are hers . . .”

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