

# 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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## BUILDING FOR THE LORD

In 1 Corinthians 3:10 Paul says, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereof. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereon."

The preacher, the elders, the teachers, and all Christians are builders and should take heed how they build, as the text indicates. Today, perhaps more than ever before, the Lord's people are building. Churches are growing, new work is being launched, and beachheads are being fixed on foreign soil. But as we grow and as we build, let us first count the cost and examine the "how" of the matter. Let us be sure to always follow the Lord's blueprint as stated in the Bible.

The church cannot successfully build by adopting methods peculiar to sectarianism through social activities. Members converted to such will have to continue with it in order to be held once they are "in." Members are usually no stronger than that which brought them to the church in the first place.

The church cannot have a wholesome growth where the congregation is built around a preacher. Maybe his personality, or his enticing words, or his "views" on certain matters have caused him to become the object of the church's affection. But where a congregation is built

around a personality other than Jesus and the gospel of Christ, that church is destined to be dashed upon the rocks. Paul said: "And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom." (1 Cor. 2:4). Again he said: "For we preach not ourselves." (2 Cor. 4:5). These admonitions must surely be heeded by preachers today. Many congregations are divided because some preachers have not courage enough to say, "Stand on your feet. Worship God. I myself am a fellow servant like unto you."

The church cannot be built on a solid basis by "soft" preaching, either. Worldliness must be crucified. Error and denominationalism must be shown to be contrary to the will of God. The preacher who is afraid to preach sound doctrine for fear of hurting someone's feelings should meditate upon Galatians 1:10.

The church can be built upon a permanent basis only by sound preaching and teaching. Nothing can take the place of preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation. With this gospel and with a converted membership we can build as the Lord would have us to. As we build let us always "take heed how we build."

—Guthrie D. Dean in

THE GOSPEL LIGHT, March, 1959

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### Do You Have Enough?

Let each one of US examine ourselves and determine our spiritual status in view of Scriptural principles. Do we have enough:

#### KNOWLEDGE—TO GUIDE OUR ZEAL?

We are taught to be "fervent in spirit" in Romans 12:11. Christ gave himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, "zealous of good works." Some people are zealous yet ignorant of God's righteousness. (Cf. Romans 10:1-3). We ought to be zealous but we must KNOW the truth if our zeal is to be guided in the right direction. Many denomination-  
alists, as well as some brethren, have a zeal for God, but it is not according to knowledge. They establish their own righteousness because they are ignorant of God's righteousness.

#### FAITH—TO MOVE US TO OBEY GOD?

It was by faith that Noah, "being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." (See Heb. 11:7). Abraham's faith prompted him to obey God's will and he was called "the friend of God." (See Heb. 11:8-10; James 2:21-23).

It takes genuine faith to obey God's

plan of salvation, God's way of worship, and God's way of life. Paul tells us that "we walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7), and that "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17). Unless we have enough faith to obey God's will, we have no promise of eternal life.

#### LOVE—TO BE UNSELFISH?

Selfishness is a very common sin. True love (genuine concern) will cause one to be unselfish. God so loved that He gave His Son to die for us. (See John 3:16). Christ so loved that he was willing to give Himself for us. We should have sufficient love that we would be willing to deny self and show compassion toward others. Do we?

#### SYMPATHY—TO HELP OTHERS BEAR THEIR BURDENS?

Although a certain priest and Levite showed no compassion toward the man who fell among thieves, the Samaritan was neighbor to him that fell among thieves because he was compassionate and willing to help him bear his burden. We are told to "bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Gal. 6:2). We who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not to please ourselves. (See Rom. 15:1). Are you really sympathetic toward others?

#### CONFIDENCE—TO HOLD STEDFAST UNTO THE END?

The Hebrew writer said: "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end." (Heb. 3:14). We need the quality of confidence which leads us to be patient and endure hardships, afflictions, and persecutions. We must be stedfast and endure faithfully unto death.

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# Try These Suggestions For Visiting

The American Medical Association has come up with some tips to persons visiting the sick in hospitals. These tips appeared in TODAY'S HEALTH, and also are offered here for study by members of this congregation. As Christians, of course, we should try to improve on even these thoughtful suggestions:

"Don't show up for a hospital visit until the third day after major surgery, or the second day after minor surgery. (An earlier visit is likely to do more harm than good despite your intentions.)

If you have a cold or don't feel up to par, send a card instead of making a visit. (You certainly don't want to add to a sick friend's trouble by bringing germs along with a bouquet of flowers.)

As you walk along hospital corridors going to or from the room of the person you are visiting, don't peer inquisitively into rooms whose doors are standing ajar. (Keep your eyes straight ahead and give patients a little privacy. They don't get much in a hospital!)

Don't stay too long when you are paying a sick call. (Long visits tire a patient, who, however bad he may feel, will make some effort to talk to visitors to make them feel welcome.)

Make happy talk. (This is the time to forget your own troubles, and your own illnesses and try to bring a little sunshine into the sick room.)

Go alone or with just one other person when you make a hospital call. Too many visitors in the room at once tire the patient. (A hospital room is no place for friends to congregate and have a party.)

Don't play doctor. (Let the patient's

(Continued in next column)

## A VOICE FROM THE PAST

### "Let Not The Church Be Charged"

In this chapter (1 Timothy 5:16) Paul is teaching that children who are able to assist their parents when their parents are in need of assistance, or even if they are just relatives, not so closely related as fathers and mothers, the church shouldn't be burdened when relatives are able to care for the matter . . . . The church should not be charged with many things by men today which the Lord never intended should be a part of the work of the church. Take, for example, the question of recreation. If there be such a question, it should be solved in the homes and not the church. The church is no more in the recreation business than it is of providing for those whose people can assist them. That a certain amount of what we call recreation is necessary for the well-being of us all goes without question. But such matters do not belong in the realm of religion. Christian parents should see to matters of this kind and not depend on the church for such things. The church that goes into such business will be lost to the Lord.

—Cleon Lyles via

"THE GOSPEL MESSENGER"

(Continued from left column)

### TRY THESE SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITING

doctor take care of his illness, without your giving the patient your idea of what should be done for him.)

Don't smoke unless it's all right with the hospital, with the patient you are visiting, and other patients close by. (If you can't do without a cigarette for 15 minutes, maybe you'd better stay at home and send flowers.)

—Selected via "AIM"

# SIN IS NOT SIN – JUST SICKNESS

In our day we hear apologies made for sins that are explicitly condemned in the Bible. Some men apparently do not believe in sin, guilt, and condemnation. In man's wisdom he pronounces drunkenness a disease, sexual perversion a glandular imbalance and crime as being emotionally ill. At the 1960 annual convention of the American Psychiatric Association one topic on the agenda was whether a criminal is mentally sick. Dr. Benjamin Karpman of Washington predicts that in the next half century the United States will not have prisons but rather psychiatric treatment centers for lawbreakers. We recognize that mental illness is a reality but we do not believe that all law violators are sick. Satan has conquered their hearts and they have transgressed

the law of God—and this is sin. (1 John 3:4). Adultery, fornication, wrath, murders, drunkenness, revelling and “such like” cause a person to be lost. Paul said, “They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal. 5:21). **Sin is sin, not just sickness.**

—E. Claude Gardner in  
THE GOSPEL ADVOCATE

## STILL NO REPLY

Although it has been **three** months since we challenged anyone in this area (and elsewhere) to enter into a series of discussions with us on the question of church-supported institutions such as orphanages, old age homes, etc. **WE HAVEN'T HAD A SINGLE SOLITARY PERSON WHO HAS ENOUGH CONVICTION AND COURAGE TO ACCEPT OUR CHALLENGE. IT STILL STANDS!**  
(CRS)

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## —Sentence Sermons—

**When looking for faults, you should use a mirror, not a telescope.**

**Put some interest in your future; that's where you'll spend the rest of your life.**

**Understand your antagonist before you answer him.**

**A hole in your tooth feels large, because the tongue is prone to exaggerate.**

**The wages of sin have never been reduced.**

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