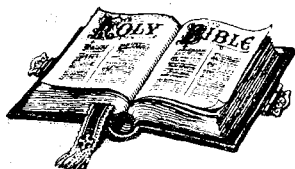


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD

Some of God's promises are conditional and we receive them only if we meet the conditions God has stipulated. Other promises are unconditional and we can expect them irrespective of any conditions whatsoever. Let us now consider some **unconditional promises God has made.**

1. **NO MORE FLOOD.** In the days of Noah, God destroyed by the waters of a great flood "**all flesh**" both of man and beast except those that entered the ark that was built by Noah. (See Gen. 6). But God **promised unconditionally** not to ever again do this. He set "**the bow**" in the cloud as "**the token of the covenant**" that He made with Noah concerning this. (Please read Gen. 7-9 carefully). Regardless of how wicked people may become, God will never again destroy "**all flesh**" by the waters of a flood. You can confidently rely on this promise. No conditions will alter it.

2. **DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH.** Though God will never again destroy humanity from the face of the earth by the waters of a flood, as in the days of Noah, He **has promised unconditionally** to destroy the earth and the works that are therein by fire. The apostle Peter said: "**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**" (2 Peter

3:10). The Lord has not placed any conditions upon his destroying the earth by fire. He simply promised that **it shall happen.** No conditions will change this promise in anyway whatever.

3. **DEATH.** Although life is uncertain and very brief at the longest, **death has been promised unconditionally to all.** The Hebrew writer said: "**And as it is appointed unto men once to die,...**" (Heb. 9:27). The Preacher said: "**A time to be born and a time to die**" and "**For the living know that they shall die.**" The only exception to this promise is that those (the righteous) who are living when the Lord comes will be changed. There is nothing you can do to escape physical death. It has been unconditionally promised to all!

4. **RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.** Jesus has **unconditionally** promised that all the dead will be raised. He said: "**... for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**" (John 5:28-29). Also see 1 Cor. 15). There is nothing you can do to escape being raised from the dead. God's Word is sure and certain. It can not be altered by the actions of men!

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### ARE YOU WALKING BY YOUR FEELINGS?

One of the greatest barriers in getting men to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ is the fact that many people are walking by **feelings** instead of by **faith**. Since one receives **faith** unless he hears God's Word. Let us consider some facts about feelings.

1. **FEELINGS ARE PRODUCED BY TESTIMONY**, whether it is true or false. If a person receives a sad message and believes it, he will become sad, whether the message is true or false. When a person is misinformed, he may be frightened when no danger is near, or he may feel very secure although danger is near. One's **emotions** do not determine the truthfulness or falsity of the testimony we receive. The fact that Isaac believed the testimony that Jacob was Esau did not make it true. (See Gen. 27). Today, a person may receive false testimony, believe it, obey it, and be lost eternally although he may feel like he is saved.

2. **FEELINGS PRODUCE MANY STANDARDS IN RELIGION**. If one may safely follow his feelings, each person would have the right to believe anything he

feels is right. This would result in almost as many different beliefs as there are individuals. This is opposite to the teaching of the New Testament of Jesus Christ. We learn from Ephesians 4:5 that there is **"ONE FAITH."** In judgment we will be judged by the Word of God, **NOT BY OUR FEELINGS!** Jesus said: **"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."** (John 12:48). We should **"earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** (Jude 3).

3. **FEELINGS DIFFER WIDELY IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS**. Feelings differ on the plan of salvation, how to worship, the name to wear, how to live, the organization of the church, etc. If feelings are correct and are to determine our faith and practice, why is there so much division among those who follow their feelings? Paul said: **"There is ONE body, and ONE Spirit, even as ye are called in ONE hope of your calling; ONE Lord, ONE faith, ONE baptism, ONE God and Father of all, . . ."** (Ephesians 4:4-6). **QUESTION:** Does the Holy Spirit prompt feelings that are diametrically opposed to what He has revealed in the New Testament? No Bible believer can believe that he does! The Holy Spirit is not responsible for such feelings!

4. **FEELINGS ARE NOT RELIABLE**. Many mistakes are made because people act according to their feelings. The feeling that **"I just feel like I should turn here"** does not assure one of the proper route or **"I just feel like it will rain today"** does not bring the rain or **"I just feel like God is pleased with my actions"** does not justify any religious act. Neither does the feeling that **"I just feel like every thing is well with my soul"** prove that one will receive eternal salvation.

Acts 8:3 says: **"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."** We learn from Acts 26:9-11 that Paul **"verily though"** with himself that he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus, which also he did. While doing these things Paul lived in all **"good conscience before God."** Yet he was lost.

Let us remember that Paul said: **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."** (2 Cor. 5:7). (CRS)

# CONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD

When God promises something **unconditionally** it is sure to come to pass regardless of what men do. But when God makes **conditional** promises, it is necessary for those conditions to be met in order for the promises to be received. Let us now consider **some things that God has promised conditionally**.

1. **REST.** In Matthew 11:28-30 Jesus promised to give rest. He said: "... **I will give you rest . . . ye shall find rest unto your souls...**" This promise of rest was not made unconditionally. Jesus stipulated some conditions. He said: "**Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.**" The promise is REST, but in order to receive REST one must "**Come unto me, . . . Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me,**" said Jesus. Action is required before one can receive REST. One must be willing to LEARN and OBEY what Jesus says. **You can receive REST if you are willing to comply with the conditions!**

2. **WILL NOT CAST OUT.** Jesus said: "**All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**" (John 6:37). The promise in this verse is clearly stated. Jesus said: "... **I will in no wise cast out.**" The condition that must be met is also clearly stated. Jesus said: "... **him that cometh to me.**" In order for one not to be cast out, he must COME to Jesus. This involves choice and action. One must be willing to learn and obey what Jesus says. **You can have the assurance that Jesus will not cast you out if you will come to Jesus.** Of course, you must come to Jesus on his terms.

3. **SALVATION FROM PAST (ALIEN) SINS.** In Mark 16:15-16 our Lord promised salvation. He said: "**He that believeth and is baptised SHALL BE SAVED; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**" The promise is salvation. Jesus said: "... **shall be saved.**" This is NOT unconditional and hence every "**he.**" It is qualified and limited; hence **conditional**. It is NOT "**he that believeth only.**" Neither is it "**he that is baptized only.**" But it is "**he that believeth and is baptized . . .**" This person has the promise of salvation. To promise salvation unconditionally or on less conditions than stated in this verse is to

teach error. Other passages may show there are other conditions that must be met. God has NOT promised unconditionally that he will save ONE sinner today. **You can receive salvation from past sins if you are willing to comply with the conditions.** When you meet the conditions, you haven't earned salvation. Neither do you deserve it. It is a free gift of God, offered by His grace.

Another way of expressing the same idea of salvation from past (alien) sins is to say **remission of alien sins.** In Acts 2:38 the Apostle Peter said: "**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.**" "**Remission of sins**" is a promise all should desire. It is a **conditional promise.** "**Repentance**" and **baptism**" are conditions a believer must meet in order to receive the promise. No one has the right to either claim or promise "**remission of sins**" unconditionally or on less conditions than stated in this passage. IF other conditions are stipulated in other passages, they, too, must be complied with. False teachers will promise "**remission of sins**" which in reality, is "**salvation from sins**" unconditionally or on less conditions than God's word requires. **You can receive the remission of sins by meeting the conditions stipulated in God's Word.** You must not try to alter it in any way whatever.

4. **ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED.** In teaching that disciples should not worry about material things such as food, drink and clothing, Jesus said: "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**" (Matt. 6:33). Here is a definite promise: "**All these things shall be added unto you.**" However, Christ did not unconditionally promise that His disciples would have "**all these things added.**" Please observe that Christ gave the promise to His disciples **conditionally.** Here is the condition: "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.**" But if a man can rightfully expect to receive the promise, he must meet the condition stipulated. God has NOT promised food, drink, and clothing to every one, but only to those who will "**seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.**" Long ago the Psalmist said: **I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous**

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## CONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD

**forsaken, nor his seek begging bread."** (Psalms 37:25). YOU can be assured that you will receive the essentials of life such as food, drink and clothing IF you will **"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."** The blessings will be provided IF the conditions are met.

5. FORGIVENESS OF SINS TO ERRING CHILDREN OF GOD. James said: **"Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."** (James 5:19-20). After Simon, a child of God, had sinned, he was told by Peter to **"Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee."** (Acts 8:22). Including himself, John said: **"If WE confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** (1 John 1:9). It can clearly be seen from these passages that **God has promised forgiveness to His children who sin.** This promise is conditional. **One must repent, confess his sins and pray to God.** No forgiveness is promised to the child of God who does less than this.

**YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO EXPECT TO RECEIVE ANY OF THESE CONDITIONAL PROMISES UNLESS YOU MEET THE CONDITIONS STIPULATED!** (CRS)

(Continued from page 1)

## UNCONDITIONAL PROMISES OF GOD

5. JUDGEMENT. Just as sure as the Lord has promised death and the resurrection, He has also **unconditionally promised** that all people, both good and bad, will be judged. Hebrews 9:27 says: **"And as it appointed unto men once to die, and after this the judgement."** In Acts 17:31 Paul tells us that **"God hath appointed a day, in the which He shall judge the world in righteousness..."** He further says: **"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."** (Roman 14:12). There is NO WAY that any one of us can escape the judgement. In view of this fact, all of us should prepare to meet God in judgement. (CRS)

WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR  
ALBERT HILL AND THE HOBBS  
STREET ELDERS TO RE-SCHEDULE  
THE SUTTON-HILL DEBATE.

### GOSPEL MEETINGS

Tommy Poarch will preach in series of meetings at the East Albertville Church of Christ April 22-27, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. The regular time will be observed on Lord's Day. Please make plans to attend and tell others about it. WE WELCOME YOU!

PROVERBS 4:23 says: **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."**

## Sentence Sermons

A truth worth uttering is a truth worth remembering.

The gem can not be polished without friction, nor man without adversity.

The best thing to do with evil is to overcome it with good.

The Christian should learn two things about his tongue: how to hold it, and how to use it.

He who is a Christian in little things is not little.

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