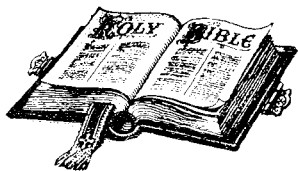


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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Volume 16

JANUARY, 1979

Number 1

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## WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THEM?

It is reported that during World War I, in the hills of Kentucky, two denominational preachers, a Baptist and a Methodist, decided to conduct a Union Meeting. They agreed that no denominational doctrine would be preached at all, but just the simple gospel according to the great commission as given by Jesus. **"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:15-16). They decided that, at the close of the meeting, they would let each convert "join the church of his choice."

The meeting was well attended, interest was high, and many believed and were baptized in obedience to the gospel. About three hundred people responded, and therefore there was great interest the last night of the meeting to see these new born Christians "join the church of their choice." **(Editor's note:** May we insert some statements and a question here? All agree that these three hundred people who obeyed the Lord were Christians. They were born again, blood-bought and were in Christ. **TO WHAT CHURCH DID THEY BELONG?** They had joined no denomination as yet; therefore they were neither more or less than Christians. They were still undivided—a group of Christians undivided by denominational names, creeds or practice. They were simply Christians!) That unity

was short lived, however, for the meeting of the last evening was to see them divided and "join" one group or the other. If they had only known Jesus' prayer for the unity of his followers! (See John 17:20-21).

One hundred of them chose the Baptist denomination. Another hundred of them chose the Methodist. But the rest refused to join either. They said they would continue as the Lord directed — worshipping and working together as Christians, being just members of the church of Christ. **WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THEM?**

If all would do what the last group did, the prayer of Jesus would be answered. His followers would all be one. We would be of the same mind and judgement, and would speak the same thing. We would be simply Christians. (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). There would be no division! Would that be worth our every effort? — Author Unknown

**(Editor's note:** If the same thing were to occur today in Alabama that is described about as happening in the hills of Kentucky during World War I, **WHAT WOULD YOU CALL THE ONES WHO BELIEVED AND WERE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED, AND WHO REFUSED TO JOIN ANY DENOMINATION? CHRISTIANS?** Surely ALL of us would agree on this).

## THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 1107 Highway 431 South, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, Ala. 35950

## Editorial - - -

### IS DOCTRINE IMPORTANT?

The importance of hearing the Word of God is overlooked by many who claim to be Christians. In an effort to justify false doctrines many people say, "after all, **doctrine is not important.**" In view of this claim, let us consider very carefully the important question: "**Is doctrine really important?**" This question should be considered in the light of the following facts.

1. The word "**doctrine**" means "**teaching.**" If "**doctrine is not important,**" as some people contend, then "**teaching**" is not important since **doctrine is teaching.** Does it make any difference what is taught? If not, one can teach that Jesus is **not** the Son of God; that the devil is God and that one can live in sin and please God and God will save him eternally regardless of how he may live. Of course, **no true believer** can accept the idea that, "**after all, doctrine is not important.**"

2. JESUS SAID: "**Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit? but**

**a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.**" (Matthew 7:15-20).

3. MATTHEW SAID: "**Then understood they how he (Jesus—CRS) bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.**" (Matthew 16:12).

4. We, like Timothy should **take heed to ourselves and "unto the doctrine."** Paul wrote to Timothy saying: "**Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.**" (1 Timothy 4:16).

5. In doctrine, we are to show "**uncorruptness.**" Consider Titus 2:7 which says: "**In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity. Sound speech, that cannot be condemned. . .**"

6. We are admonished to be not "**carried about with every wind of doctrine**" in Ephesians 4:14 and Hebrews 13:9. Those verses read as follows: "**That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive,**" and "**Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. . .**"

7. We should "**teach no other doctrine.**" (See 1 Timothy 1:3).

8. We should **speak "the things which become sound doctrine."** (See Titus 2:1).

9. A sinner is made free from sin and becomes a servant of righteousness when he obeys from the heart "**that form of doctrine**" which was delivered by the apostles. (See Romans 6:17-18).

10. JOHN SAID: "**Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**" (2 John 9-11).

(CRS)

# PRAYING THROUGH IS NOT TAUGHT?

Many denominational preachers teach that aliens should "come to the altar and pray through." Many sincere people follow their advice and obviously think they are saved after having "gone to the altar and prayed." But does the Word of God teach this? Human opinion and practice does not determine what is right. God's Word is the standard! Let us consider the following facts:

1. There is **NO COMMAND** in the New Testament for an alien sinner to "pray through."

2. There is **NO EXAMPLE** in the New Testament where an alien sinner ever "prayed through."

3. There is **NO NECESSARY IMPLICATION** in the New Testament that an alien sinner can "pray through to salvation."

4. There is **NO EVIDENCE** in the New Testament that an alien sinner can be saved by "praying through."

5. The blind man whom Jesus healed said: **"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him he heareth."** (John 9:31).

6. The apostle Peter said, **"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."** (1 Peter 3:12).

7. In speaking of God's children, John said: **"And whatsoever we ask we receive of Him, because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight,"** and **"this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us."** (1 John 3:22, 1 John 5:14).

8. Jesus said: **"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."** (Matthew 7:21) He also said, **"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"** (Luke 6:46).

9. Ananias said unto Saul of Tarsus, a praying sinner, **"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."** (Acts 22:16).

10. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned,"** and in Acts 2:38 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."**

**CHALLENGE:** We sincerely challenge you to find **ONE VERSE** of Scripture that teaches that an alien sinner can be saved by "praying through!"

Dear reader, if you **think** you were saved by "praying through," **you are mistaken. THE FACT IS THAT YOU ARE STILL LOST IN YOUR SINS!** God's way is very simple. Why not believe and obey the gospel and be saved?

(CRS)

*(Continued from page 4)*

## ARE THE JEWS GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE?

gospel age which began on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2.

2. While speaking to the Jews, Peter said: **"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all them that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."** (Acts 2:39). **NOTE:** **"Them that are afar off"** would definitely be the Gentiles!

3. **ACTS 10:34-35** says: **"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness, is accepted of Him."**

4. **ACTS 15:9** says: **"And put no difference between us (the Jews — CRS) and them (the Gentiles — CRS), purifying their hearts by faith."**

5. **ROMANS 1:16** teaches that the gospel **"is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."**

6. In **ROMANS 3:9** Paul said: **"... for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are under sin; ..."**

7. **ROMANS 10:12** says: **"For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."**

8. **EPH. 2:11-18** teaches that Christ died **"that He might reconcile both (Jew and Gentile) unto God in one body by the cross, ..."**

9. In 1 Cor. 12:13 Paul said: **"For by one**  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## ARE THE JEWS GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE?

There are some people who believe that the Jews are God's special people today. They look upon the Jews of the world as having some advantage over other people because they think that God is watching over them and protecting them in some special way. Is this idea true? Can it be advocated BY FAITH? Let us consider what the word of God has to say along this line. The following facts will be helpful.

1. It is true that the children of Israel were chosen by the Lord **"to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth."** (Deut. 7:6). God through Moses said unto Israel: **"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."** (Exodus 19:5-6). NOTE: This would last only until "the last days," i.e., until the

*(Continued on page 3)*

**THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE** that was supposed to be conducted in Athens still has not been re-scheduled as promised by the Hobbs St. Church in Athens.

### THOUGHT PROVOKING PROVERBS

PROVERBS 1:7: **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."**

PROVERBS 3:5 **"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."**

PROVERBS 3:7 **"Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil."**

PROVERBS 3:27 **"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it."**

PROVERBS 4:7 **"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."**

(Continued from page 3)

### ARE THE JEWS GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE?

**Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, . . ."**

10. We learn from Gal. 3:26-29 that all of God's children are **"one in Christ"** and that **"there is neither Jew nor Greek."**

**No, the fleshly Jews are not God's chosen and favored people today. ALL WHO OBEY HIM ARE!**

(CRS)

## Sentence Sermons

Action is the only true test of faith — and love.

Christ did not come to make life easy, but to make men great.

He who is poor in faith will bankrupt hereafter.

What a person does is the result of what a person is.

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