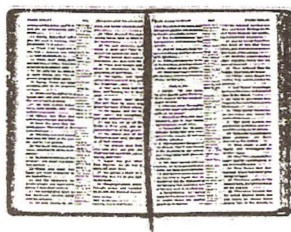


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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Number 1

SOME THINGS THAT MAN CAN NOT PROVE!

There are many things that are often preached and believed by many, but they can not be proven to be true by the Scriptures. In fact, they are false! Let's examine some of them.

1. **"One must go to an old fashioned altar and 'pray through' in order to be saved."** REPLY: No

passage of Scripture can be given to prove the above statement. It is merely assumed and asserted without any proof whatsoever! A study of such Scriptures as Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; James 1:25; Rev. 22:14; 1 Pet. 3:12; John 9:31; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38 & Gal. 3:26-27 & 2 Thess. 1:6-10 will prove the above statement is false!

2. **"It doesn't matter how we worship & serve God as long as it seems right to us."** REPLY: This is

merely assumed & asserted without any Scriptural proof whatsoever! It is a false statement! A study of such Scriptures as Prov. 14:12; John 16:2; John 14:6; John 4:24; Prov. 21:2; Jer. 17:9; Prov. 28:26; Prov. 23:23; John 8:32; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Thess. 2:10-12; 1 Pet. 1:22-23; Acts 26:9-11; 23:1; Mt. 6:24; Acts 20:19; Hebrews 12:28-29 & 2 Tim. 2:15 will prove the above statement to be false!

3. **"There are Christians in all**

'churches' (denominations)."

REPLY: This statement is frequently assumed and asserted by many without any effort being made to prove such by the Scriptures.

When this statement is examined in light of the Scriptures, it is obvious that it is a false statement. It may be a sincere opinion or it may wishful thinking, but it is not a statement that can be proven by the Scriptures.

A study of such Scriptures as Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:37-47; Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 3:10-21; 5:23-32; Col. 1:18; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4:4-6 & 1 Cor. 12:13 will prove that all true Christians are in the one body, the church!

NOTE: When an alien sinner hears, believes and obeys from the heart the gospel of Jesus Christ (the truth, the word of God which is the seed of the kingdom – see 1 Pet. 1:22-25), he is washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, forgiven of his sins and added to the church which is the one body of Christ. The seed (the word of the gospel) always produces after its kind. It always produces Christians! It never produces anything else! It never leads one into a denomination, a false church!

(To be continued)

(CRS)

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Editorial...

DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE? (Concluded)

In previous articles we considered "DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE" and showed from the Scriptures that God does require obedience. We also discussed the question: "WHAT CONSTITUTES OBEDIENCE?" In that study we showed from the Scriptures "Some things that constitute disobedience."

Let us resume our study of the subject, "DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE?" by considering the question: "WHAT DOES OBEDIENCE INCLUDE?"

A. It involves hearing God's word! Jesus said: "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." (Mt. 11:15). Paul said: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17) Also see Mk. 4:23-24; Lk. 11:28; Mt. 17:5; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; Acts 3:22-23, etc.

B. It includes faith! Heb. 11:

6 says: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." One must also believe in Jesus Christ as Lord, the Son of the living God. (See Rom. 10:9-10; Jno. 20:30-31; Acts 8:37; 16:31; 2 Cor. 5:7; John 3:15-18; Heb. 10:39, etc.)

C. It includes repentance!

In Acts 2:38 Peter told the Jews on Pentecost who had crucified Jesus to: "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." Also see Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30-31; 20:21; 26:20; 2 Cor. 7:10; 2 Pet. 3:9, etc.

D. It includes confession!

In Rom. 10:9-10 we read: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Also see Mt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:37 (AV), etc.

E. It includes baptism "for the remission of sins"! Acts 2:38 says: "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." Also see Mark 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:3-4, etc.

F. It includes a continual life of service and devotion to God! In Mt. 4:10 Jesus said: "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and him only shalt thou serve." Hebrews 12:28-29 says: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire." Also

see Rev. 22:14; John 4:24; 1 Cor. 15:58; Acts 2:42; Heb. 10:24-25; Rev. 2:10; Col. 3:1-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-7; Heb. 10:39; Rev. 2:1-7; Rev. 7:14, etc.

G. It involves doing God's Will! 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." (Mt. 7:21) Also see Mk. 3:31-35; 1 John 2:17; James 1:22-25; Mt. 7: 24-27; Heb. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:13-25; Acts 5:29, 32; Rom. 6:17-18; Rom. 2:8-11; 1 Pet. 4:17-18; 2 Thess. 1:6-10, etc. NOTE: We must be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving our own selves! (See James 1:22)

H. It includes doing all of God's will for us! In Gen. 6:14-21 God commanded Noah to "make thee an ark of gopher wood" and gave him instructions concerning the kind of wood he was to use and the size of the ark. He also told him how many doors, windows and stories, etc. that he was to put in the ark. NOTE: Gen. 6:22 says: "Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." FURTHER NOTE: It is clear from v. 22 that Noah did *all* that God commanded him! He would *not* have obeyed God if he had done *less than* or *more than* or *something other than* what God had told him to do!

James 2:10 says: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." NOTE: If we have a right to violate one command of the Lord, which one is it? Can each person decide which command he will violate and still please God? Of course not! We do not have the right to violate any part of God's will for us!

I. It includes the proper motive! God wants us to do what he

says with proper motives. Here are some examples:

1. When we *give alms* (do charitable deeds or do righteousness of any kind), we should make sure that we do so *with the proper motive*. We should not do so "to be seen of men." If we do, we "have no reward" of the Father "which is in heaven." (See Mt. 6:1-4).

2. We must *have the proper motive when we pray*. We should not be as hypocrites are who love to stand in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets that them *may be seen of men*. When they so act they have their reward. We should enter our closets and shut the doors and pray to the Father in secret. He will reward us openly. Neither should we use "*vain repetitions*" that we might be head for our "*much speaking*". (See Mt. 6:5-8)

3. *Proper motive is also important when we fast*. In Mt. 6:16-18 Jesus said: "...When ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. ...They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."

NOTE: It is obvious from the above passages (as well as from others that could be given such as Mt. 23:14, 15, 27-28; Gal. 1:10) that proper motives are very important and are included in obedience to God!

J. It includes love! Paul said: "For in Jesus Christ neither cir-

cumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." (Gal. 5:6) The Hebrew writer mentions the **"work and labour of love"** of saints (6:10). Read 1 Cor. 13:1-8, 13 and you should be impressed with the importance and value of love in obeying God's will.

Now back to the question: ***Does God Require Obedience?*** Yes, God does require obedience! There are some things that constitute disobedience that some people obviously think is obedience, but such is not the case!

Obedience to God involves or includes: (A) Hearing God's Word. (B) Faith. (C) Repentance. (D) Confession. (E) Baptism. (F) A continual life of service & devotion to God. (G) Doing God's will. (H.) Doing all of God's will. (I) Proper Motives, & (J) Love. ***Have you obeyed God?*** CRS

WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR

The Lord richly blessed the church here throughout the years and we were able to publish THE INSTRUCTOR for the past 45 years. Each nine years for the first 36 years we bound the issues of THE INSTRUCTOR in a beautiful hardback book with an index to make it more useful. It is our desire and plans (if the Lord wills) to bind the last nine years in a hardback book. If you would like to receive the last nine years of THE INSTRUCTOR free, please send us your complete U. S. Postal address.

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Unless you move, the place where you are is the place where you will always be.

* * * * *

When praying, don't demand anything of God; Make your requests known & patiently wait.

* * * * *

The hand of an old friend always feels good and brings joy.

* * * * *

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