

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

Volume 7

JUNE, 1970

Number 6

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BIBLE

A great amount of misunderstanding, confusion, and disunity, both within and without the church, stems from improper attitudes toward the Scriptures. A few examples of each might be helpful.

REGARDING CHRISTIANS

The need has never been greater than the present for members of the Lord's church to completely **believe in** and **rely upon** the inspired word to regulate their lives. If God is glorified, it must be through us, His children (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and His word reveals His mind and will to us. Too many times we reason (?) concerning our lives and activities about as follows: (1) "What I'm doing is no worse than others are doing." (2) "We want to be popular." (3) "Other congregations are engaged in it," or (4) "Bro. So-and-So says he thinks it is all right!" **But what does the Bible say?** Or, have we come to the place that we don't much care what it says? We can always get some good friend to agree with us, but that doesn't make up for an improper and unhealthy attitude toward the Bible. We have always pointed out to others the danger of simple disregarding the Bible

when a desired practice fails to harmonize with Bible teaching. Now, the lesson needs to be learned by us.

It is not enough to profess to believe what the Bible teaches about doing good "unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (Gal. 6:10), which, to be sure, is our individual Christian duty—but we must be doing it!

It is not enough to profess to believe what the New Testament teaches about "not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25)—we, as **Christians, simply must not be guilty of this sin.** Our attitude toward the Bible many times makes the difference with regard to our being faithful or unfaithful in attendance.

It is not enough to profess faith in the New Testament admonition to "be not conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:2), but our attitude toward this teaching should cause us to comply with the rest of the same instruction: "**But be ye transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that

(Continued on page 3)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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

CARROL R. SUTTON
EDITOR

Send all questions, comments, and criticisms to the editor, Route 3, Highway 431 South, Albertville, Ala. 35950.

Editorial . . .

Do You Contend With The Wicked?

The wise man Solomon said: "They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them." (Prov. 28:4). Although these words were spoken prior to the New Testament era, no doubt the principle is still true and should be considered by all of us. Mr. Cruden defines the word **contend** as follows: "To strive, either bodily or in debate or discussion, to dispute." CRUDEN'S COMPLETE CONCORDANCE, Pg. 109. In view of New Testament principles, our **contending** would not be "bodily", but "in debate or discussion." We thus should "dispute" with the wicked.

WHO PRAISES THE WICKED?

Our text suggests that those who forsake the law praise the wicked. We often witness this very thing. Men who forsake God's law do not have the proper respect for God or for the people of God. Often times, they realize that they are not following God's law, so they feel self-condemned. They love those who love them. Those who forsake God's law will keep company with others who forsake God's law. When men lose respect for God's word, their respect for the wicked increases. The wicked are praised

ed by them. Flattery is often given. Those who forsake God's law often use flattery to accomplish ungodly purposes. unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly **contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints." This admonition to "contend for the faith" was given to saints. The wicked do not

In 2 Peter 2:15 the apostle speaks of some as having "forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness." These are "cursed children" who "speak evil of those things that they understand not." They also "speak great swelling words of vanity." The righteous are not encouraged nor exalted by them because they have forsaken God's law. However much effort is expended in their praise of the wicked.

Observe people who have forsaken God's law of pardon for alien sinners (faith, repentance, confession and baptism) as they speak of the wicked. Instead of a stern rebuke, they give them gentle praise. The same is true with those who forsake God's law in the area of the organization of the church, the worship and work of the church and how to live as a Christian. The righteous are criticised and condemned while the wicked are praised and upheld. The wise man said: "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord." (Prov. 17:15).

WHO CONTENDS WITH THE WICKED?

The text in Prov. 28:4 says "but such as keep the law contend with them." In contrast with those who forsake the law praising the wicked, we learn that those who keep the law contend with the wicked. We learn in Jude 9 that Michael the archangel contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses. Jude 3 says: Beloved when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write

(Continued on page 4)

GOATHEADS AND GOSSIP

Of all the obnoxious weeds with which it has been our displeasure to combat, we sincerely believe goatheads are about the hardest to stop once they get a start. I know a man who kept wondering how they get a foothold in his back yard. Finally he figured it out. The back half of the yard had no sod. He was scraping it periodically to keep down the goatheads. In spite of all, some escaped and seeded. One morning he figured it out. Everytime he took the garbage (which, by the way, must be done) he walked through the grass, through the bare yard and back. This particular morning, on coming to the back stoop, he noticed the goathead seeds and stickers clinging to his shoes. What a surprise! Planting goatheads in his own grass.

But what has this to do with gossip? Many times, no doubt, we plant gossip "seeds" unintentionally in the church by walking through it. It is well nigh impossible to stay completely free from it. Yet, like the goatheads, it will stick to us even without our noticing it, and we may even plant and help scatter it without being conscious of having done so. Both are easily planted, require no cultivation, will destroy everything good they touch, will sap the soil in which they grow and can only be destroyed by methods which are bound to uproot something good with them; and, when removed, may leave a festering sore for many days.

—THE SWEETWATER CHRISTIAN

A Point To Ponder

There is no more reason to believe that man descended from some inferior animal than there is to believe that a stately mansion has descended from a small cottage.

—M. J. Bryan

(Continued from page 1)

ATTITUDES TOWARD THE BIBLE

good and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

REGARDING THOSE NOT CHRISTIANS

1. Your attitude toward Christ and His word will cause you to believe in Him as both Lord and Saviour, if it is the proper attitude. Jesus says that faith in Him is a **must**. (John 8:24; 3:16).

2. The proper attitude toward what He has taught will cause the believer to repent of past sins. (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38).

3. The good confession of faith in Christ is made only by those whose attitude toward the Word that teaches concerning the confession is as it should be. (Rom. 10:9-10).

4. One's proper attitude toward the Scriptures will cause him, as a penitent believer, to be baptized into Christ. The attitude toward the Scriptures that will bring salvation is that which will cause one to comply with its teaching in order to have its promises. Baptism "washes away sins" (Acts 22:16), puts one who believes "into Christ" (Gal. 3:27, and gives "remission of sins." (Acts 2:38).

What is YOUR attitude toward the New Testament?

—Carl Vernon in

THE IMPRESSION, April 27, 1958

WHAT IS WRONG?

Although seven months have passed since we challenged anyone who really believes that we are in error concerning the all-sufficiency of the church in organization to do all of the work that God has assigned it, no one has shown sufficient courage to accept the challenge and engage in a series of public discussions with us. We are waiting. (CRS)

(Continued from page 2)

DO YOU CONTEND WITH THE WICKED?

unto your of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly **contend for the faith** which was once delivered unto the saints." This admonition to "contend for the faith" was given to **s a i n t s**. **T h e w i c k e d d o n o t** accept the faith and thus have no disposition to contend for it. The faith is often despised by the wicked. They put forth effort to destroy the faith. Those who keep the law must contend with the wicked while contending for the faith.

The wicked often say that "it makes no difference as to what we believe and practice in religious matters." They say "one church is just as good as another," and "I'm satisfied with my religion." If we are righteous (keepers of the law of Christ) we must contend with

the wicked and contend for the faith which was once and for all time delivered unto the saints. The faith teaches us that "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, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6).

Friends, our responsibility to contend with the wicked and contend for the faith is clear-cut and plainly-shown. What course will we follow? Will you praise the wicked or contend with them. Will you justify the wicked and condemn the righteous? "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord," should be remembered by all of us.

Yes, those who forsake the law praise the wicked; but those who keep the law contend with them.

(CRS)

Sentence Sermons

Sometimes those who shout "unity" the loudest will do much to foster division.

Some "Christians" are like canoes—they need to be paddled.

We cannot control the evil tongues of others, but we are responsible to bridle ours.

When two friends part they should lock up one another's secrets and interchange their keys.

"The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear."
—Socrates

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Route 3, Highway 431 So.
Albertville, Alabama 35950

Entered as second-class matter
at Albertville, Ala.