

# 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

MARCH, 1970

Number 3

## GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7).

In vain means useless, empty or without value. To use God's name in vain is to say it without meaning or for no real worthwhile purpose. It indicates a disrespect for God and a disregard for divine things.

Any individual who curses and swears cannot be thought of as being a good moral person. He violates divine law by thus profaning the name of Almighty God. His words will be held against him and he will be found guilty when he stands before the Lord in judgment. Therefore, every Christian should be cautious about his language.

For a person to mention God's name in vain shows three things to be true about him.

First, he does not love God as he ought to and he is openly disobeying his command. His words show an utter irreverence for God, Christ, the Scriptures and the church.

Second, he does not respect his fellowman. Is he considering that what he is saying is offensive and repulsive to those who are trying to serve God? Is he thinking about young boys and girls who are listening and will be influenced in the wrong way?

Third, he is not helping himself any, but rather making a bad impression on others. He is merely showing his lack of vocabulary and displaying a shallow mind.

Christians will want to heed the exhortations found in the Bible. "But above all things, brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation." (James 5:12). "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." (Col. 4:6).

—Don C. Bentley in THE VISITOR

Houston, Texas, Dec. 3, 1950.

# THE INSTRUCTOR

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting on Highway 131 South in Albertville, Alabama.

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## Editorial . . .

### But a Faithful Man Who Can Find?

The wise man Solomon said: "Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness; but a faithful man who can find?" (Prov. 20:6). This passage does not say that there are no faithful men anywhere, but it does suggest that faithful men are scarce.

Some people think nearly all men are faithful, while others think that no one is faithful. Surely there are some faithful men but they are few and far between. Do you know any faithful men? What is your conception of a faithful man? Let us consider what the word of God teaches along his line.

#### EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL MEN

Abraham is spoken of as being faithful. Gal. 3:9 says: "So when they which of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham." We learn from Heb. 11:8-19 that he was a man of great faith and prompt obedience to God's will.

The Hebrew writer mentions Moses as being a faithful individual. "And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after." (Heb. 3:5). In Num. 12:7 the Lord said: "My

servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house." Prior to this, Moses had refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter but chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God. His choice was indeed noble and his actions were rewarded.

Although we do not know many details of Hananiah's life, Nehemiah tells us in Neh. 7:2 that "he was a faithful man, and feared God above many."

In 1 Cor. 4:17 Timothy is spoken of as being "faithful in the Lord." In Col. 1:7 Epaphras is spoken of as being "a faithful minister of Christ" and in Col. 4:9 Onesimus is mentioned as "a faithful and beloved brother." The apostle Paul told the Ephesians that Tychicus was "a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord." (See Eph. 6:21). Silvanus, who was a bosom companion of Paul and who had hazarded his life for the gospel's sake, is mentioned by Peter as being "a faithful brother." (See 1 Pet. 5:12). Antipas is referred to as a "faithful martyr." (See Rev. 2:13).

#### SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF A FAITHFUL MAN WILL NOT LIE

Although lying is a very prevalent sin, a faithful man will not lie. We learn from Solomon in Prov. 14:5 that "a faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies." Paul says in Col. 3:8: "Lie not one to another . . ." We are told in Rev. 21:8 that "all lairs shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

#### WILL TEACH OTHERS

The gospel is God's power to save the lost. It must be preached in order for the lost to believe and obey. Those who are faithful as God's children will endeavor to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy saying: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to FAITHFUL

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

### "BUT A FAITHFUL MAN WHO CAN FIND?"

MEN, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Tim. 2:2). It is imperative that we spread the good news of Christ the Lord!

#### WILL BE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS

In Matt. 25:21 reference is made to a "good and faithful servant" who had been "faithful over a few things" who was made ruler over many things, and was allowed to enter into the joy of his lord. Whatsoever we do, whether small or great, we should do it faithfully. If a person is unfaithful in small things, he will be unfaithful in weightier matters. Luke 16:10 says: "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

#### WILL OBEY CHRIST

In order to be saved eternally, it is necessary for one to obey Jesus Christ. He is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. (See Heb. 5:9). One who claims to be a faithful man but does not obey Christ, has no hope of life everlasting. There is no point in our saying unto Jesus, "Lord, Lord," and not do the things which he commands.

Paul said: "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Cor. 4:2). Jesus said: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Rev. 2:10).

Are you faithful? Why not make an honest self-examination in the light of the New Testament and see IF YOU ARE REALLY FAITHFUL? Your eternal destiny depends upon your being faithful. True faithfulness is not determined by human standards but by God's Word! Delay no longer to obey!

"But a faithful man who can find?"

(CRS)

## What Does "FOR" In Acts 2:38 Mean?

If I had a lot of money  
That I wished to give away,  
I think upon my preacher friends  
A little test I'd play.

I'd call them all together  
And explain to them a plan,  
Whereby a thousand dollars  
Would be given to each man.

The plan it would be simple  
Anyone could get it straight,  
The language would be a paraphrase  
Of Acts two and thirty-eight.

My Baptist friend would shed his coat  
And cease his "because of" prattle;  
He'd know the meaning of this "for",  
When he heard the silver rattle.

Friend Methodist, too, without a doubt  
This "for" could understand,  
If the understanding meant for him  
A thousand smackers in his hand.

Not one of them would argue back,  
And you can write it down,  
Within thirty minutes, there'd not be  
A dry preacher in the town.

—Author unknown. Reprinted here from  
GOSPEL DIGEST, March, 1951.

## THE CHURCH

The church is not a refrigerator for the preserving of perishable piety. It is a dynamo for charging human wills with power. The object of the church is not to tell men how to dodge difficulties, but to furnish strength and courage to meet them. The business of the church isn't to furnish hammocks for the lazy; it is rather to offer well-fitting yokes for drawing life's loads. The man who does not support the church practically casts a vote for its abolition.

—Selected

## Put Him Down Right There!

A pioneer preacher was called to administer the last rites over the remains of a man who had always refused to enter a church building. As the pallbearers neared the door of the little church, the old preacher stood in the doorway and beckoned to them saying, "Gentlemen, I have never taken an undue advantage of any living person, and I am not going to begin by imposing on the dead. If this man were living he would not enter this building. Put him down right there and let's respect him enough to finish his earthly pilgrimage as he lived it."

The service was conducted from the door while the remains rested upon the church lawn.

Perhaps the preacher was a bit "hard," but certainly he had a point. Better think on dying and eternity while we live.

—THE ANNOUNCER

## Church Forgetting

"And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them." (Matt. 26:19).

A little fellow in the slum section of a large city was induced to attend a Bible school, and by and by became a Christian. He seemed quite bright and settled in his new faith and life, but someone, surely in a thoughtless mood, tried to test or shake his simple faith in God, asking him, "If God loves you, why doesn't He take better care of you? Why doesn't He tell someone to send you warm shoes and some coal and better food?"

The little fellow thought a moment, then with tears starting in his eyes, said, "I guess He does tell somebody, but somebody forgets."

Yes, somebody forgets, the church forgets.

—Selected from  
STEPS OF FAITH

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## Sentence Sermons

If you need an excuse, see the preacher; he's heard lots of them.

—Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.—G. K. Chesterton

—A man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one could find fault with what he was doing.

—Egotism is the glue with which you get stuck on yourself.

—Maybe the service was "cold" because you sat in the "Z-row"!

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Entered as second-class matter  
at Albertville, Ala.