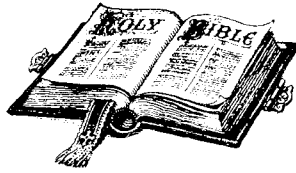


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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CAN WE SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE?

Faith and opinion do not come the same way. Opinion may come from various sources, but **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Rom. 10:17). We must **"walk by faith, not by sight."** (2 Cor. 5:7). Otherwise, we have no promise of eternal salvation. Let us examine a prevalent **"view"** which many people espouse and see, in the light of God's word, whether it is by FAITH or OPINION.

There are many people who think that **"we can not see the Bible alike."** Is this idea so? Is it BY FAITH or OPINION? If it is BY FAITH, please tell us where the Word of God teaches it. Many times this statement is made in an effort to "justify" religious sects and religious error. Let us now consider the question: CAN WE SEE THE BIBLE ALIKE?

If we can understand the Bible at all, then we can understand it alike. We either understand it (alike) or we misunderstand it.

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

If we can not understand the Bible, WHY did the Psalmist say: "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple." (Psalms 119:130). Also see Psalms 119:105.

If we can not understand the Bible, WHY did Isaiah say: "And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." (Isaiah 40:5).

If we can not understand the Bible, WHY
(Continued in right column)

did Paul say:

1. **"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth?"** (2 Timothy 2:15)

2. "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; **(as I wrote afore in few words, whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ?)**" (Eph. 3:3-4).

3. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but **understanding what the will of the Lord is?**" (Eph. 5:17). Also see 1 Cor. 1:10.

YES, WE CAN!

Yes, we can see the Bible alike:

1. If we are not blinded by error of Satan. (See 2 Cor. 4:3).

2. If we are not blinded by prejudice. (See James 1:21).

3. If we do not close our eyes, stop our ears and harden our hearts. (See Matthew 13:15).

4. If we approach a study of it **humbly**, with a sincere desire to learn the truth as revealed therein and to obey it from the heart. (See Matthew 5:6; John 17:7 & 2 Thess. 2:10-12).

NO, the idea that **"we can not see the Bible alike"** IS NOT BY FAITH AND CANNOT BE ADVOCATED BY FAITH! It is mere opinion. Yes, it is possible for us to understand God's Word!

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial . . .

YOUNG WOMEN AND SOUND DOCTRINE

In speaking "**the things which become sound doctrine**," Titus was exhorted to speak the truth that aged women be "**teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.**" (See Titus 2:1-5).

It is necessary that sound doctrine be preached. We should insist on sound teaching relative to how to be saved from past sins, the church, its organization, its worship and work, etc. However it is also important that we speak "**the things which become sound doctrine**" relative to young women. It is inconsistent for us to claim to "speak where the Bible speaks" if we fail to speak these things. Let us now consider some things that young women should be taught.

SOBER

Titus 2:4 indicates that aged women should teach young women to be sober. Young women should be properly trained. They should be carefully admonished and encouraged. There should be the cultivation of sound judgment and prudence. Aged women have the responsibility to exhort earnestly the young women. Aged women who are **teachers of goodness** will not neglect to earnestly exhort and thus train

the young women so as to enable them to be wise.

LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS

In 1 Timothy 5:14 Paul said: "**I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, ...**" Titus 2:4 shows that when younger women marry they should **love** their husbands. Aged women should teach them this fact. This love that younger women should have for their husbands can be learned. This love goes beyond physical attraction. It is a genuine concern for the husband's welfare and happiness. It prompts patience, kindness, subjection, and reverence. It forbids envy, selfishness and arrogance.

LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

Although most mothers may have "natural affection" toward their children, aged women are told to teach the young women "**to love their children.**" If and when young women bear children they should **love** them. This love goes beyond "natural affection." It embodies a true concern for the child's physical and spiritual welfare and the child's happiness. It prompts parents to properly teach and discipline their children. Solomon said: "**He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.**" (Proverbs 13:24).

DISCREET

Young women should be taught to be **discreet**. (See Titus 2:5). According to THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 613, the word that is translated "**discreet**" suggests the "**curbing of one's desires and impulses, selfcontrolled, temperate.**" The Revised Version renders it "**sober-minded.**" Without question, young women should be exhorted earnestly to curb their desires and impulses, to exercise self-control, to exhibit temperance, to manifest self-restraint. The popular attitude that says "do your own thing" is completely contrary to sound doctrine. A lack of self-control leads to sin. It will produce unhappiness in this life and eternal misery in the world to come.

CHASTE

Many young women are never taught by aged women to be "**chaste**," i.e. "**pure from carnality, modest.**" A lack of modesty prevails. Carnality is seen nearly every where. One's clothing as well as one's speech and actions may suggest a lack of purity. One should dress modestly and should talk and act in such a manner so as to promote holiness. Unless one is unholy, she should not advertise herself as such by the way she dresses, what she says, her

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YOUNG WOMEN AND SOUND DOCTRINE

mannerisms and where she goes.

Aged women who fail to teach the young women to be **chaste** are going to be accountable unto God for their failure. It will not be enough for them to say that brother _____ did not believe in women teachers. **God expects aged women to listen to His Word and to obey Him rather than to listen to and obey some man.** (See Acts 5:29).

KEEPERS AT HOME

This injunction for young women to be taught to "**be keepers at home**" is probably ignored as much as possibly more than any other thing mentioned in Titus 2:4-5. THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 442, defines the expression that is translated "**keepers at home**" to mean "**keeping the home and taking care of household affairs, domestic.**" W.E. VINE says it means "**working at home.**" The Revised Version renders it "**workers at home.**" The meaning should be clear. Young women should be taught to be domestic. They should take care of household affairs. They should be efficient workers and the main sphere of their work is "**at home.**" This is sound doctrine. When this is disregarded and women fail to be workers or they fail to be workers "**at home,**" many unnecessary and difficult problems will arise and many marriages will fail and families will be broken up and children neglected. Many preachers, elders, deacons, and class teachers can take the credit for many such situations that exist in the church. They will insist on **sound** doctrine relative to "institutionalism," but will fail to teach that which becomes **sound** doctrine relative to young women being "**keepers at home.**"

GOOD

Joseph of Aremathaea and Barnabas were **good** men. They were upright in character. Young women should be taught to be "**good.**" They should be morally good and upright in character. Many women are unable, it seems, to distinguish between **good** and **evil**, between **light** and **darkness** and between **sweet** and **bitter**. (Cf. Isaiah 5:20). Aged women must be able to discern between **good** and **evil** if they are to be qualified to earnestly exhort young women to be **good**.

OBEDIENT TO HUSBANDS

Aged women must also teach the young women to be "**obedient to their own husbands.**" (See Titus 2:4-5). In Col. 3:18 Paul said: "**Wives, submit yourselves unto**

your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." In Eph. 5:22-24 he said: "**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.**" Peter said: "**Likewise, ye wives be in subjection to your own husbands...**" (1 Peter 3:1).

Wives are not to be slaves or servants with no will of their own. Neither are they to be objects of mistreatment or abuse. They are to be in subjection to their husbands, but they are to be loved, respected and honored. It is also their responsibility to "guide the house."

Aged women should be intreated as mothers and the younger women should be exhorted as sisters, with all purity. (See 1 Timothy 5:1-2).

It is a shame that many young women have not been taught the things which become sound doctrine by aged women. Unless young women learn these things they can not practice them. As a result of the failure to practice them the word of God may be blasphemed!

Are you doing your part to encourage aged women to teach these things to the young women? Or do you, by your attitude and efforts, discourage them? You will give an account unto God for your actions and attitude! It is not enough to give lip service to these things. You must practice them.

Let each of us resolve that we are going to insist on learning, teaching and practicing "**the things which become sound doctrine.**"

(CRS)

IS A DEAD BODY MORE IMPORTANT?

Do you remember the last time that you went to a funeral? How many people did you notice who were whispering, laughing, distracted, or passing notes?

The Creator of the worlds, The Mighty God who holds the universe together with His power, is in the midst of our worship services. (Heb. 1:2; Col. 1:17; Mt. 18:20). This holy One Who was cruelly murdered on a cross for you is watching your heart. Does He see the proper reverence for Him? Or does He see less respect for Him than you would give to a dead body? **Think!**

Bob Mitchell

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GOD IS HOLY

A study of the Scriptures will indicate without question that GOD IS HOLY.

The Scripture says: "**And ye shall be holy unto me: FOR I THE LORD AM HOLY,...**" (Lev. 20:26). NOTE: God through Moses spake these words to Israel.

The Scripture says: "**...and ye shall be holy; FOR I AM HOLY:...**" (Lev. 11:44). NOTE: God was speaking to the Israelites.

The Scripture says: "**Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool: FOR HE IS HOLY**" (Psalms 99:5).

The Scripture says: "**And one cried unto another, and said, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD OF HOSTS: the whole earth is full of His glory.**" (Isaiah 6:3).

The Scripture says: "**...HOLY FATHER, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are.**" (John 17:11). NOTE: Jesus addressed the **Father** as HOLY.

The Scripture says: "**...and they rest not day and night, saying, HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, which was, and is, and is to come.**" (Rev. 4:8).

We should never picture God as being unholy. God cannot be tempted with evil. God's nature is completely good.

If we will ponder within our hearts the the above Scriptures, when we say "HOLY FATHER," it should have a more significant meaning.

(CRS)

A DEBATE IS PLANNED

A series of public discussions has been planned for the week of July 24th, 1978 in Hobart, Indiana and Lake Station. The subject to be discussed is "**Benevolent Organizations.**" Is it Scriptural for churches to contribute to them? **Ray Hawk** and **Carrol R. Sutton** have been chosen to be the disputants. **Jim Bullington** and **Hiram Hutto** will be the moderators.

The exact propositions and further details will be given later. Make plans to attend and tell others.

THE SHARP-SUTTON DEBATE

The **Sharp-Sutton Debate** on Holy Spirit Baptism is scheduled to be conducted on September 18, 19, 21 and 22, 1978.

STILL WAITING

We are still waiting for the "**elders**" of Hobbs Street or **Albert Hill** to exemplify enough courage to honor their agreement to discuss issues over which we differ or to apologize for having made the agreement. Is that waiting for too much?

Sentence Sermons

You will never get ahead of the person you are trying to get even with.

Kindness is the oil that takes the friction out of life.

It is better to be despised for the right than to be praised for the wrong.

Many people are making a good living, but only a few are making good lives.

A smoker pays twice for his cigarettes. Once when he gets them and second when they get him.

He who thinks lightly of sin, thinks lightly of God.

A man's character and a fence are alike; neither can be strengthened by whitewash.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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