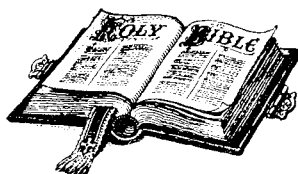


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## HUMAN CREEDS

It is obvious to all true believers of the New Testament that **"the just shall live by faith"** (Romans 10:17) and that **"we walk by faith, not by sight."** (2 Cor. 5:7) The faith by which we walk and by which we shall live **"cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (Romans 10:17). However, human denominational churches have human creeds they follow which distinguish them from other denominations and from the church of the New Testament. Some of these creeds are officially acknowledged as such while others are not. Some are written while others may not be. For example, there are human creeds such as "The Catholic Catechism," "The Baptist Manual," "The Methodist Discipline," "The Presbyterian Confession of Faith," "The Nazarene Manual," "The Doctrine and Covenants" of the Mormon Church, "The Pentecostal Manual," etc. Are these creeds acceptable to God? Can people follow these creeds BY FAITH? **Are these creeds by faith?** Let us consider **why true Christians reject all human creeds.**

1. THE SCRIPTURES ARE SUFFICIENT. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; James 1:21-25; Hebrews 2:1-3; 2 John 9; Jude 3).

2. HUMAN CREEDS CONTRADICT THE WORD OF GOD. For example, "The Methodist Discipline" SAYS: **"Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."** (Art. 9, p. 27, 1948 ed.) The Word of God says: **"Ye see then how that by works a**

**man is justified, and not by faith only."** (James 2:24).

3. HUMAN CREEDS ADD TO THE WORD OF GOD. For example, "The Nazarene Manual" says: **"The General Assembly shall have power to legislate for the Church of the Nazarene."** (Page 41, 1952 ed.). We must not add to God's Word. (See Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Prov. 30:6; Matt. 15:9; 2 John 9; Rev. 22:18).

4. HUMAN CREEDS TAKE AWAY FROM THE WORD OF GOD. For example, "The Baptist Manual" says that in the **"apostolic age"** that **"baptism was the door into the church. Now it is different..."** (Manual by Edward T. Hiscox, p. 22). We must not take away from God's Word. (See Deut. 4:2; 12:32; 1 Peter 4:11; Rev. 22:19).

5. HUMAN CREEDS SUBSTITUTE FOR THE WORD OF GOD. For example, "The Presbyterian Confession of Faith" says: **"Dipping of the person into the water is not necessary; but Baptism is rightly administered by pouring or sprinkling water upon the person."** (Page 103, 1949 ed.). The Word of God says: **"Therefore we are buried with by baptism into death..."** (Romans 6:4; See also Col. 2:12; John 3:23).

6. HUMAN CREEDS ARE DEVISED BY UNINSPIRED MEN AND ARE OFTEN CHANGED BY HUMAN COUNCILS. The Scriptures are inspired of God and **can not be changed and will not pass away.** (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Cor. 2:10; Gal. 1:11-13; 1:6-9; Matt. 24:35; Romans 16:17-18).

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## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### WISDOM IS BETTER

When we consider the composition, worth or use of material things, some things are better than others. When we purchase or sell items or services we take into consideration their value. We are willing to pay more for an item or service that is worth more. When considering spiritual things and values, we certainly should consider the "better" things and choose them. Let us now meditate on wisdom which is far better than physical things.

A long time ago the Preacher said: "**For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.**" (Prov. 8:11).

Many people take pride in physical strength and weapons of war. However Solomon tells us that "**wisdom is better than strength**" and that "**wisdom is better than weapons of war.**" (See Eccl. 9:16-18).

According to Webster, **wisdom** means "**the quality of being wise; power of judging rightly and following the soundest course of action, based on knowledge, experience, understanding, etc.; good judgment; sagacity.**" (WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE, p. 1632).

As husbands and wives we need wisdom to act properly toward each other. As

parents we need wisdom to bring our children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. As employees and employers we need wisdom to guide us in our working relationships with each other. As citizens we need wisdom in carrying out our civic responsibilities. As brethren we need wisdom to conduct ourselves properly toward each other.

Many people lack wisdom and seemingly have no desire for wisdom. "**The Lord giveth: out of His mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous.**" (Prov. 2:6-7). "**Happy is the man that findeth wisdom...**"

While Joseph was in Egypt, "**God was with him. And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and WISDOM in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.**" (Acts 7:9-10).

In Luke 21:14-15 Jesus told his disciples to "**settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what you shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and WISDOM, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.**"

When the apostles asked that seven men from among the disciples be looked out that they might be appointed over the business of serving tables, one of the qualifications stipulated was that they should be "**full of the Holy Ghost and WISDOM.**" (See Acts 6:1-3).

Those who disputed with Stephen in Acts 6:9-10 "**were not able to resist the WISDOM and the spirit by which he spake.**"

Paul prayed that the saints at Colosse "**might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all WISDOM and spiritual understanding.**" (Col. 1:9). In Col. 1:28 Paul said: "**...warning every man, and teaching every man in all WISDOM.**" Paul used skill and discretion in imparting the truth to Christians. So should we. We should cause and allow the word of Christ to dwell in us **richly in all wisdom.** (See Col. 3:16). We should "**walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.**" (Col. 4:5). We should exercise a devout and proper prudence as we have associations with men who are not disciples of Christ.

How highly do you value **wisdom**? Is it better than rubies? Is the gain of wisdom better than fine gold? Do you desire wisdom? "**Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.**" (Prov. 4:7). "**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...**" (Prov.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## CAN MORAL GOODNESS SAVE?

Many people seem to think that **"moral goodness alone will save us."** Is this taught in the New Testament? If it is not taught in the New Testament we have no right to believe and teach it. Let us consider the following facts.

1. IF MEN CAN BE SAVED BY MORAL GOODNESS ALONE, THEY CAN SAVE THEMSELVES. Eccl. 7:20 says **"For there is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."** In Romans 3:10 Paul said: **"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:..."**, and in verse 23 he said: **"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."** The above verses show conclusively that man within and of himself can NOT save himself by his own moral goodness.

2. IF MEN CAN BE SAVED BY MORAL GOODNESS ALONE, THEN JESUS CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS IN VAIN. We are told in John 3:16 that **"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."** In Titus 2:14 Paul said that Christ **"gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity"** and in Heb. 2:9 that Christ **"tasted death for every man."** Jesus shed his blood in vain if a sinner can be saved without it. (See Matthew 26:28).

3. IF MEN CAN BE SAVED BY MORAL GOODNESS ALONE, THEN IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR ONE TO BELIEVE AND OBEY THE GOSPEL. Rom. 1:16 says the **"gospel"** is the **"power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth."** 2 Thess. 1:7-9 teaches that those who **"obey not the gospel"** will be **"punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord."** Paul said the Romans were made free from sin when they **"obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine..."** (See Rom. 6:17-18).

4. IF MEN CAN BE SAVED BY MORAL GOODNESS ALONE, WHY WEREN'T MEN LIKE SAUL OF TARSUS AND CORNELIUS SAVED BY IT? Although they were **"morally good,"** it was necessary for them to hear, believe and obey words in order for them to be saved. You can read the inspired record of Saul's conversion in Acts 9, 22, and 26. The conversion of Cornelius is recorded in Acts 10 and 11.

No, moral goodness alone is not able to save one person from hell and its torment. Do not trust in your **"moral goodness"** or you will be lost eternally.

(CRS)

## THE LITTLE CHAP THAT FOLLOWS ME

A careful man, I ought to be;  
A little fellow follows me.  
I do not dare to go astray  
For fear he'll go the self-same way.  
I can not once escape his eyes,  
Whatever he sees me do he tries.  
Like me, he says, he's going to be,  
That little chap that follows me.  
He thinks that I am good and fine;  
Believes in every work of mine.  
The bad in me he must not see;  
My life to him must an example be.  
I must remember, as I go  
Through summer's sun and winter's snow,  
I'm building for the years to be,  
For that little chap that follows me.  
—Author unknown

## GOSPEL MEETINGS

Roy Cogdill is scheduled to preach at the East Albertville congregation in a series of gospel meetings the week of July 31-Aug. 6, 1978. Please mark your calendar and make plans to hear the gospel with us. Tell others about it also.

*(Continued from page 2)*

## WISDOM IS BETTER

9:10). James said: **"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."** (James 1:5-6).

Let us not confuse God's wisdom with the wisdom of the world because God has made foolish the wisdom of this world. He **"hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise."** (1 Cor. 1:27). Paul said: **"For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise..."** (1 Cor. 1:19). James 3:15-17 clearly shows the difference between earthly wisdom and wisdom that is from above.

You can have wisdom if you really desire it. You must first **"fear the Lord."** You must be willing to **"ask of God"** who is able to give it. **Unless you are willing to glorify God by obeying His commandments you will never truly be wise.**

(CRS)

## HUMAN CREEDS

7. HUMAN CREEDS CAUSE DIVISION AND DIVISION IS SINFUL. (See John 17:20-21; 1 Cor. 1:10-15; Eph. 4:1-6; Phil. 3:16; Romans 16:17-18).

8. HUMAN CREEDS CAN NOT PRODUCE CHRISTIANS, BUT THEY DO PRODUCE SECTARIANS. The word of God is **"the seed of the kingdom."** When it is sown, it will produce Christians. It takes more than or less than or something other than the Word of God to produce "sectarians." (See Luke 8:11; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 11:16; 26:28; Matthew 4:4; Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 Pet. 4:16).

9. HUMAN CREEDS CAN NOT SAVE US, BUT THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AS REVEALED IN THE SCRIPTURES CAN. (See John 8:32; 17:17; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Rom. 1:16; James 1:21).

10. HUMAN CREEDS WILL NOT JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAYS, BUT THE WORD OF GOD WILL! (See John 12:48; Rom. 2:16; James 2:12; Rev. 20:12-15).

**NO, human creeds can not be followed by faith!** Why would any sincere person risk the salvation of their soul by following any human creed?

We plead with **you** to reject every human creed and take a stand with us on the **WORD OF GOD** as it is revealed in the Scriptures. We challenge you to **"study to show thyself approved unto God."**

(CRS)

## HAWK-SUTTON DISCUSSION

A series of public discussions are to be conducted in Hobart, Indiana and Lake Station, Indiana on July 24-27, 1978 between **Ray Hawk** of Pensacola, FL and **Carrol Sutton** of Albertville, AL.

The first two sessions will be held in Hobart with Carrol Sutton **affirming** the following proposition: **"The Scriptures teach that the church may arrange, oversee, and provide the needs for those who are its obligation in the field of benevolence, and this arrangement is not a benevolent organization (institution) such as the Paragould Children's Home, Shults-Lewis Children's Home, and Homes for the Aged."** Ray Hawk will deny.

The last two sessions will be held in Lake Station with Ray Hawk **affirming** the following proposition: **"The Scriptures teach that churches of Christ may contribute (transmit money to) to orphan's homes such as the Paragould Children's Home, Shults-Lewis Children's Home, and Homes for the Aged."** Carrol Sutton will deny.

## WAITING STILL

We are still waiting to receive word from the "elders" of the Hobbs St. Church. When we receive it, we'll pass it on to you.

THE SHARP-SUTTON DEBATE IS TO BE HELD THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1978.

## Sentence Sermons

Some people spend more time developing their wishbone than they do developing their backbone.

If you want to hear about the trouble in the church, ask some ungodly person.

Giving is grace — Not giving is disgrace.

People seldom "lose their religion" by a blowout — it's usually a slow leak.

Moderation in sin is no more possible than moderation in hanging.

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