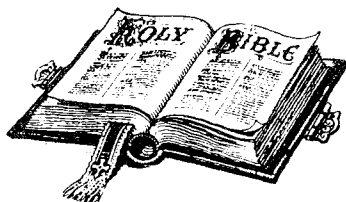


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## WHERE IS YOUR INFLUENCE?

A short time back brother Ferrell Jenkins visited with an aged disciple, brother Henry A. Ficklin, who studied at the feet of J. W. McGarvey years ago. We let brother Jenkins tell the story.

"In the 19th century when the church was divided over the use of instrumental music and the missionary society, McGarvey took what might be described as a 'middle-of-the-road' position. He opposed the use of the instrument, but favored the society. Even though he opposed the use of the organ in worship and moved his membership when the Broadway church, Lexington, Ky., adopted the organ by majority vote, he continued to fraternize with those who used it. What about his students whom he taught what the instrument in worship was wrong? Did they follow his Scriptural advice? No! Brother Ficklin continued that **McGarvey's influence went with his fellowship and not with his teaching.**"

In 1950 brother J. P. Sewell, in a Harding College lecture, recalled the following advice, given him by brother McGarvey away back in 1902. It is advice preachers today might ponder.

**"You are on the right road, and what ever you do, don't let anybody persuade you that you can successfully combat error by fellowshipping it and going along**

**with it. I have tried it. I believed at the start that was the only way to do it. I've never held membership in a congregation that uses instrumental music. I have, however, accepted invitations to preach without distinction between churches that used it and churches that didn't. I've gone along with their papers and magazines and things of that sort. During all these years I have taught the truth as the New Testament teaches it to every young preacher who has passed through the College of the Bible. Yet, I do not know of more than six of those men who are preaching the truth today. It won't work."**

Our influence goes with what we do rather than with what we say. Ponder this well, you preachers, elders, and members who give your presence, support and silent acquiescence to practices you know to be without divine authority. You hope to teach them? Do you know more about teaching them than J. W. McGarvey and the Lord? (Cf. Matthew 12:30). — **Robert F. Turner** in **KNOW THE TRUTH**, March 7, 1968.

(Editor's Note: James 1:22 says: **"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."**)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial . . .

### **"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN" (No. 14)**

In our last study we examined in the light of God's word the popular doctrine that **"Baptism is not essential to salvation."** The fact that many people advocate such teaching is **no evidence** that it is true.

It is not sufficient for a person to urge others to prove that **"baptism IS essential to salvation."** Those who teach that **"Baptism is NOT essential to salvation"** are obligated to **prove** by the Scriptures that such teaching is true.

We hereby challenge those who believe and teach that **"Baptism is not essential to salvation"** to enter a series of public discussions with us on this subject. Will they do it? Is there anyone out there who has enough conviction and enough courage to do so? We are waiting to see.

Number **ten** is the next item in the list of twenty-five things that appeared in THE INSTRUCTOR, October, 1983, under **"Specific Wickedness"** for which **Scriptural proof** for the opposite view (than that stated in # 10) has been requested. It reads as follows:

**"10. The church is not important."**

COMMENTS: Most denominationalists seem to believe (and they do teach) the doctrine that **"The church is not important."** It seems that the "masses" in our country accept without question this doctrine. However popular it may be, when we consider

the principles of truth and righteousness as revealed in God's Book, it will be found to be a **false doctrine**.

A consideration of the following facts and principles should enlighten any serious person as to the importance of the church.

1. Jesus Christ **promised to build** the church. Matthew 16:18 records the fact that Jesus said: **"... and upon this rock I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH..."** NOTE: The Son of God is the **builder** of the church! If the church is not important, the Son of God built something (the church) that is **unimportant!**

2. Jesus Christ is the **foundation of** the church. Paul declared: **"For other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."** (1 Cor. 3:11). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Jesus Christ is the foundation of something (the church) that is not important!

3. Jesus Christ is the **head of** the church. Paul said: **"And He is the head of the body, the church:..."** (Col. 1:18), and **"And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body,..."** (Eph. 1:22-23). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Christ is the head of something (the church) that is **unimportant**.

4. Jesus Christ **purchased** the church with His blood. In addressing the Ephesian Elders, the apostle Paul mentioned the church of the Lord **"which He hath purchased with His own blood."** (Acts 20:28). Paul also said that **"... Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it..."** (Eph. 5:25). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Jesus Christ purchased something (the church) with His blood that is not important!

5. The saved **are added** to the church. Acts 2:47 says: **"... And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."** NOTE: If the church is not important, then the Lord adds the saved to something (the church) that is **unimportant!**

6. Jesus Christ is the **Saviour** of the body (which is the church). Paul said: **"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of**

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## **"PROOF REQUESTED, PROOF GIVEN"**

**the church: and He is the Saviour of the body."** (Eph. 5:23). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Christ is the Saviour of something (the church) which is not important!

7. Jesus Christ "... **loved the church**" enough to give Himself for it according to Ephesians 5:25. NOTE: If the church is not important, then Jesus Christ loved something (the church) enough to give Himself for it although it is unimportant!

8. The Lord nourishes and cherishes the church. Paul said: **"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church."** (Eph. 5:28-29). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Christ nourishes and cherishes something (the church) that is not important!

9. Jesus Christ gave Himself for the church that He might sanctify and cleanse it. Ephesians 5:25-26 says: **"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."** NOTE: If the church is not important, then Jesus gave Himself for something (the church) to sanctify and cleanse it although it is unimportant!

10. Jesus Christ gave Himself for the church that He might sanctify and cleanse it that He might present it unto Himself a glorious church. Paul said: **"... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it; That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."** (Eph. 5:25-27). NOTE: If the church is not important, then Christ loved and gave Himself for something, (the church), to sanctify and cleanse it to present it to Himself although it is not important.

11. Jesus gave Himself for the church to sanctify and cleanse it that He

might present it to Himself a **glorious** church. (See Eph. 5:23-27). NOTE: If the church is not important, then that which is **glorious** is unimportant!

12. God is glorified in the church. Paul said: **"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."** (Eph. 3:21). NOTE: If the church is not important, then God is glorified in something (the church) which is not important!

### **FURTHER OBSERVATIONS:**

There is not a passage in God's Book that even suggests that the church is not important.

The church is important because:

1. It is according to God's eternal purpose. (See Eph. 3:8-11).

2. Jesus Christ is its builder. (See Matthew 16:18).

3. Christ is its foundation and chief cornerstone. (See 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:19-22).

4. It was purchased by Christ with His own blood. (See Acts 20:28).

5. Christ loved it and gave Himself for it. (See Eph. 5:25-27).

6. Christ is its head. (See Col. 1:18).

7. The saved are added to it by the Lord. (See Acts 2:47).

8. Christ nourishes and cherishes it. (See Eph. 5:25-27).

9. Christ is its Saviour. (See Eph. 5:23).

10. God is glorified in the church. (See Eph. 3:21).

11. The church is a manifestation of God's wisdom. (See Eph. 3:8-11).

Friends, you can not belittle the church without belittling Christ's blood which purchased it and God's wisdom that designed it!

When a person **presumes** to speak the doctrine that "the church is not important" in the name of Christ, he is speaking presumptuously and is teaching **false** doctrine because such is **not** taught in God's Book! **The person who so speaks is guilty of wickedness!**

We should **"so speak"** and **"so do"** as those who will be **judged** by the law of liberty! (See James 2:12).

— CRS

(To be continued)

**LOVE NEVER FAILS!**

## **WHEN DOES A FARMER CEASE TO BE A FARMER**

Let's say that farmer Jones attends all the farmers' co-op meetings. That he even brings visitors with him occasionally. And that he pays his co-op dues regularly. But let's also say that farmer Jones stops plowing his soil, stops planting seed, stops all cultivation, and stops harvesting. When he fails to do these, he stops being a farmer because he has stopped doing the things that identify him as a farmer.

Let's apply this same line of thinking to a Christian. Let's say that he continues to attend all the church services. That he is faithful to bring others with him and that he pays his "dues." [Editor's note: He gives according to his prosperity.] (We think this much of his activity is fine). But, let's say that this church member stops praying at home, stops doing personal work, stops visiting the sick and shut-ins, stops living a faithful Christian life before others; then as surely as the farmer ceased to be a farmer when he quit farming, the child of God ceases to be a Christian when he ceases to perform the work of a Christian.

—Taken from MOORESVILLE MEMO, 4/68.

### **A CHRISTIAN**

A little boy once asked his dad what a Christian was. The father replied that a Christian was a person who loved and obeyed God. He loved his friends and neighbors and expressed his appreciation for other Christians. He even loved his enemies and prayed for them that they might be blessed. He prayed often and blessed God's holy name in reverent worship. The father explained that a Christian is kind and considerate, gentle and courteous in his speech and in his selfless attitude. He lives a life that is pure and holy and is a Christian through and through. The little boy thought for a moment and then asked another question: "Daddy, have I ever seen one?"

—Taken from a bulletin of the EAST SIDE CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## **— SENTENCE SERMONS —**

Both the fool and the wise man have foolish thoughts, but only the fool speaks his.

\* \* \* \* \*

No one is ever too old to learn, but many keep putting it off.

\* \* \* \* \*

A lot of happiness is overlooked because it doesn't cost anything.

\* \* \* \* \*

When a man starts throwing dirt, you can be sure he is losing ground.

\* \* \* \* \*

Once time has been killed, it cannot be resurrected.

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