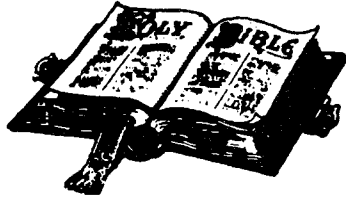


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 32

MAY, 1995

Number 5

## ***IS MIRACULOUS POWER STILL AVAILABLE FOR THE CHURCH AS IT WAS IN THE FIRST CENTURY?***

NO! There is no evidence in the Scriptures nor in the world today that **anyone** on earth has miracle working power from God as did the apostles and some on whom the apostles laid their hands in the first century. Gifts of the Holy Spirit along with signs, wonders and divers miracles were necessary in the first century for the **revelation** and **confirmation** of the **Word of God** unto man. In John 14:26; 15:26 & 16:7-13 we learn that Jesus promised to send the HOLY SPIRIT Who would teach them all things and bring all things to the remembrance of the **apostles; He** would guide them **"into all truth"** and show them **"things to come."** He promised them **power** when they received Holy Spirit baptism. We learn from Mk. 16:20 that the **apostles** **"went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."** We also learn from Hebrews 2:3-4 that the purpose of the signs and miracles

was for the **confirmation** of the message given.

Once the **Word of God** was completely **revealed** to inspired men, **confirmed** and given to the world in written form, there would be no further need of miraculous power in the church! (See Gal. 3:15).

### **OBSERVATIONS:**

Although **"Jesus Christ (is) the same yesterday, and today, and for ever"** (Heb. 13:9), please consider the following.

1. He is **not** creating the earth and all things therein as He once did!

2. He is **not** turning water into wine as He did in John 2:1-11!

3. He is **not** dying on the cross **now** as He did in the first century! Neither is He raising the dead **now**, nor personally walking on the shores of Galilee as He once did, but **Jesus Christ IS the same person NOW that He was then!**

No, miraculous power is NOT still available for the church as it was in the first century!

(CRS)

## **THE INSTRUCTOR**

(USPS #581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ., meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, in Albertville, Alabama.

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Second-class postage paid in  
Albertville, AL 35950

### **Editorial ...**

#### **SOME THINGS WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DO**

As Christians, we should be optimistic. We should keep in mind that **"...in tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine or peril, or sword"** that we can be **"more that conquerers through him that loved us."** (Cf. Romans 8: 35-39). We can do **"all things"** that we are responsible to do! Christ will strengthen us (Cf. Phil 4:13). We should not underestimate God's power and providence! As Paul wrote: **"...God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."** (2 Cor. 9:8) However, we should not think of men above what is written, (Cf. 1 Cor. 4:6; 2 John 9). There are some things that we are **not** able to do. Here are some of them.

I. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PERFORM A MIRACLE! Miracles **were** performed as recorded in the Old Testament. (Cf. Exodus 7:10-13; 7:20-25; Num. 20:7-12; 22:22-35, etc.) Without question, miracles **were performed** during the personal ministry of Jesus Christ while here on earth. (See John 2:1-11; 5:1-9; 6:1-14; 9:1-7; 11:1-47 & 20:30-31).

Miracles were performed by the apostles and some on whom the apostles laid their hands. (See Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:1-4; Acts 5:16; 8:5-6). However, miracles were **durational!** A study of 1 Cor. 12 will show that miracles were in **operation**; chapter 13:8-10 shows they were **durational** and chapter 14 records **regulations** for those who were performing those miracles! Today, we should **"...Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** (1 John 4:1). When the searchlight of **God's truth** is turned on those who claim to be performing miracles, they are found to be false! No, we are **not** able to perform miracles!

II. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CHANGE EVERYTHING ABOUT US! We cannot add **"one cubit"** to our stature! Jesus said: **"And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?"** (Luke 12:25-26). NOTE: In this passage Jesus taught against worry!

To illustrate that fact that we cannot change everything about us, I call your attention to a boy that was born with a "birth-mark" on his face. When he started to school he cried about the way his face looked but he could not change it! Years later he retired as president of Princeton University. He had learned to accept what he could not change! Often we try to change the environment or people's attitudes, etc. but **we are NOT able to change them!** Let us learn to accept (not necessarily approve of them) the things that we are **not** able to change.

III. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO UNDO WHAT WE HAVE DONE! We may  
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## SOME THINGS WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DO

regret a deed done, a word spoken or an evil thought, but we cannot undo it! We may do it through ignorance, weakness or wilfully, but once done, spoken or thought we cannot undo, unspeak or unthink. If it is sinful **we can repent of it, and should**, but we cannot **undo it!** (Cf. Acts 17:30-31; 3:19 & 8:22)

IV. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO FORGIVE SINS ON GOD'S BEHALF! A consideration of the rhetorical question raised by some in the first century suggests that we cannot forgive sins on God's behalf. (See Mark 2:1-12).

We **can** and **should** forgive those who sin against us. Jesus said: **"...if he repent, forgive him."** (Luke 17:3). Paul said: **"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."** (Eph. 4:32).

To be forgiven of sins as an alien sinner, one must **repent** and **be baptized** as a **believer** who has **confessed Jesus as Lord**. (See Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 2:38. Also see Acts 8:26-39).

To be forgiven as God's children when we sin we must **repent, confess our sins** and **pray**. (See Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:8 & James 5:16).

Regardless of how much we love a person, we **cannot** forgive their sins against God. Only God can do that!

V. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CHANGE THE CONDITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIED! Each person has the power of choice. Each one has personal responsibilities. God will hold each one accountable for his actions. Mormons practice what they call "baptism for the dead." Years after a person has died in a lost condition a

Mormon will allow another Mormon to "baptize" him on behalf of the dead person in order for the dead person to have his sins forgiven. A consideration of the following passages should convince any truth seeking person that such a doctrine is **false!**

Romans 14:12- **"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."**

Romans 2:6- **"Who will render to every man according to his deeds."**

2 Corinthians 5:10- **"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."**

Although it may be a companion, child, parent or dear friend we **cannot change their spiritual condition after they have passed on!** They will stand before the **Judge of all the earth** and give account for themselves! No one can account for another person! Each must stand on his own!

VI. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO OBEY THE GOSPEL FOR OTHERS! Since each individual is personally accountable to God, each individual is personally responsible to obey the gospel of Christ which is God's power to save! (See Mark 16:15-16; Romans 1:16 & 2 Thess. 1:7-9).

I cannot **understand, believe, repent, confess** and **be baptized** for someone else. Each one must obey! I can't **worship** for other! I can't **live** for others! Each one must **worship, serve God** and **live soberly, righteously and godly**.

VII. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DEVISE A PLAN OF SALVATION! Many have tried and many do try to devise a plan of salvation, but it is impossible! Read Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12; Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 1:22; 1 Cor. 1:18-31 & 3:18-23.

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**SOME THINGS WE ARE  
NOT ABLE TO DO**

Let each of us allow God to direct us in and through **His Word!** Let us have genuine faith and trust in God. Let us praise God, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**" (Rev. 19:6).

Let each of us realize our limitations, but we should never doubt God's power and providence!

Let us not attempt to do those things that we are **not able** to do. Let us strive to teach others **God's Word** and encourage them to fulfill their responsibilities while they are living. Let us take heed unto **God's Word** and **be an example of the believers in both conduct and attitude!**

(CRS)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS**

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A SERIES OF GOSPEL MEETINGS WITH THE SAINTS WHO MEET IN EAST ALBERTVILLE. THESE MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED JUNE 4-9, 1995 AT 7:30 each evening Monday through Friday and at 9:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM on the Lord's Day.

Our building is located at 4777 U.S. Highway 431 in Albertville.

Our beloved brother CHARLES G. MAPLES of Red Bay, Alabama will be the preacher!

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND!  
Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend! Please tell others!

**- SENTENCE SERMONS -**

If you are so busy you cannot stop and think, you had better stop and think!

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the dangers of the modern age is that many people are "better off" without being better!

\* \* \* \* \*

God provides food for every bird, but He does **not** put the food into the nest.

\* \* \* \* \*

When we waste time we are wasting our lives!

\* \* \* \* \*

There will never be a reduction in the wages of sin!

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