

# 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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## WHO CAN COME TO GOD?

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me." (John 6:44-45).

Who can come to God? He that "hath **heard** and **hath learned** of the Father." This idea of one falling down by his radio, or having some "miracle worker" lay his hands on him to be saved is a lot of foolishness. One must be **taught of God** before he can do what God would have him do. Hearing and learning are prerequisites of obedience to God. David prayed, "Teach me thy way, Oh Lord, and I will walk in thy truth." It is impossible for one to "walk in truth" with-

out some knowledge of truth. We do not mean to say that one must wait until he has a complete knowledge of the will of God before he becomes a Christian, but that he must know what God would have him as an alien sinner do in order to become a Christian.

Jesus said in Matt: 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." One may cry, Lord, Lord, without any knowledge whatever of the will of God; but he cannot **do** the will of the Father; as the above verse says he must **do**; without some knowledge of what God's will is. How can one obey the traffic laws without some knowledge of such laws? He cannot do it. He is expected to **learn** such laws, then obey them. The same is true of the law of God. One must hear and learn, then obey.

—Jesse M. Kelly in THE DE QUEEN BOULEVARD EVANGELIST, Jan. 7, 1955

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## Editorial.....

### Are You Willing To Search The Scriptures?

The writer of the Book of Acts commended the Bereans of old by saying: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the Scriptures daily**, whether those things were so." Acts 17:11). The Bereans who listened to the preaching of the apostle Paul, received the word with all readiness of mind. They were anxious to receive it. Their hearts indeed were receptive. However, before accepting the preaching of the apostle they obviously wanted to be sure that he was telling the truth of God. So they "**searched the Scriptures daily**." Luke later records the fact these Bereans were noble. Many people today are not characterized by this nobility. First, they aren't willing to receive the word with all readiness of mind and secondly, they aren't going to put the effort that is required to "**search the Scriptures daily**" to see whether or not the things that are spoken are so.

In 1 Peter 3:15 Peter exhorts us saying "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." We thus have the

responsibility of preparing and being willing to give an answer to those who may ask us concerning our hope. Some are prepared but are not willing to answer. Others are willing but are not prepared to answer. We will never be "ready" to answer as we should unless we "sanctify the Lord God in our hearts." We cannot "sanctify" the Lord in our hearts unless we are taught of God. If there is no knowledge, there can be no genuine faith since "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:17). We cannot have the knowledge and faith that will make us "ready to give an answer" unless we are willing to search the Scriptures.

The apostle Paul commanded Timothy saying: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). The idea of "giving diligence" is involved in "study." One must be zealous, yet cautious as he searches the Scriptures. This requires a lot of time and much effort. Many will never be approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth because they are not willing to give the time nor put forth the effort required. Such ought to be ashamed! They will be lost in the day of judgment.

The fact that Paul shows that one should study in order to "rightly divide the word of truth" suggests that if one does not study that he will not divide aright God's word. Many people try to justify themselves in their ignorance of God's truth by saying: Educated men don't agree on the Bible. If they can't understand it and agree on it, there is no use in me trying to." Friends, you and I will not be judged on the basis of what educated men may have said about the Bible, but we will be judged by what the Bible teaches! **You have the responsibility of searching the Scriptures**, as did the Bereans of old, to see whether or not the things that are spoken are so! Paul warns that "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13). Don't be deceived by others and do not de-

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# Is It Anybody's Business How I Live?

1. It is God's business. He sees and knows all that I do. All that I do must be to His glory.. (1 Cor. 10:31).

2. It is Christ's business. He died to purchase us with His blood. We belong to Him. (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Belonging to Him we have not the right to join our bodies to a harlot. Both our bodies and minds should be kept pure and undefiled for the habitation of the Holy Spirit.

3. It is the business of my neighbors. If I do anything that infringes on his rights, I am duty bound to cease. We are our brother's keeper. We must not cause him to stumble. To do so is a sin for us. (1 Cor. 8:12).

4. It is the church's business. When one member suffers, all suffer. (1 Cor. 12). When a member conducts himself in such a manner as to bring reproach against the church, all suffer. In 1 Cor. 5, we have the command to withdraw from the ungodly; especially dealing with fornication in the church at Corinth. Paul also says that there are other sins that merit the church exercising discipline. He closes with this command: "Put away the wicked man from among yourselves" (1 Cor. 5:13).

Yes, it certainly is somebody's business **HOW I LIVE**.

—Taken from "The Light of Truth"

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## ARE YOU WILLING TO SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES?

ceive yourself. Search the Scriptures for yourself in order that you may KNOW what God's word actually says. Your soul is involved! KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND WHY YOU BELIEVE IT! The day is far spent. Night is drawing night. This life will soon be over. The resurrection and judgment are coming. Then what?

(CRS)

# Denominational Admissions

"The church's worst enemy is its own triviality—its round of fund drives, bazaars, luncheons, dinners and bake sales ..... All this is admirable, but it is not religion."

George W. Cornell, an Associated Press writer, quoted the above words of a New York Episcopalian leader, indicating that many denominationalists are beginning to see the emptiness of their efforts. This quote is printed here from an article by Robert Welch, from which the following are taken.

"The churches have kept adding odds and ends of new responsibilities until they resemble a modern drug store or shopping center." So opined a leader of the Yale Divinity School.

"The trouble is that the church has become a please-the-crowd institution instead of an unfettered champion of principle." And this is observed by a social scientist in the ultra-liberal University of Chicago.

The church is not in the recreational and social business. Some of the so-called "clergy" of high estate in sectarian quarters apparently see this and lament the wasted motion and perversion of mission it effects even in their human situations. The preachers who are party-minded can say but little against the above, for no Scripture can aid them, and a goodly number of their associates make no pretenses that such is the mission of the church. Yet, they continue the parties—but be not surprised, for if men have no respect for God and His word, why should they honor their own scholarship?

Pitiful as this is, it cannot compare to the same practice on the part of those who claim to do only that which is authorized in God's Word.

—Jere E. Frost in  
THE NEWBORN ADMONISHER

**HEAR THE GOSPEL OVER  
WBSA, 1300 ON THE DIAL  
Monday through Saturday  
at 11:45 a.m.**

The only way to get rid of a bad habit is to stop it at once. If you try tapering off, this is the result. You drop the "H" and you still have

# A BIT.

You think you're getting over it by dropping a little bit of the evil thing, so you go on and drop the "A" but you still are

**BIT.**

That is to say, you are not getting on at all. You are deceiving yourself. You are just where you were. You are still bit by the evil thing. However, you think you are progressing and so you drop the "B". But you are no farther on; you still have

***IT.***

And "it" is the sting of habit. "It" has been the trouble all along. You are where you started. Even when you drop the "I" you still have, just as you had,

***T.***

Which stands for temptation. And temptation is a longer word to get rid of than habit. Better do the thing "wholesale" and drop all the letters at once.

—Taken from THE REMINDER

# SENTENCE SERMONS

Some “Christians” are like lightning bugs—they keep going on and off.

**Your child deserves to be taught the word of God by you.**

One's judgment of a position can be no better than his information

Although you fall hard you will bounce high, if you're made of the right material.

Some “Christians” are like porcupines—they have a lot of good points, but you can’t get near them.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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