

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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DO BABIES INHERIT SIN?

One of the cardinal planks in the platform of Calvinism is the doctrine of hereditary total depravity. Briefly stated, this doctrine says that babies are born in sin, that is, that babies inherit sin from their parents and that they are destitute of anything good and are wholly evil. A number of denominations bodies advocate this doctrine. It is my conviction that such teaching is not substantiated by the Word of God. A consideration of the following facts will show you why I reject the doctrine of hereditary total depravity.

1. SOLOMON said: **"Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright: but they have sought out many inventions."** (Ecclesiastes 7:29).

2. EZEKIEL said: **"The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."** (Ezekiel 18:20).

3. The LORD GOD said: **"Thou (King of Tyrus — verse 12 — CRS) wast perfect in thy ways from the day thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."** (Ezekiel 28:15).

4. JESUS said: **"...Except ye be converted,**

and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3). NOTE: This does not sound like little babies are "born in sin," does it?

6. PAUL said: **"For as much then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."** (Acts 17:29). We learn from Hebrews 12:9 that God is **"the Father of Spirits."** NOTE: Since God is the Father of our spirits, if we inherit sin from our Father, it would follow that God is sinful! Of course, such is not the case!

7. JOHN said: **"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."** (1 John 3:4). NOTE: Babies have NOT transgressed God's law, and therefore could NOT be guilty of sin before birth! The Bible does NOT speak of **"inherited sin."**

8. We learn from **James 1:13-15** that sin is the result of lust and enticement. Babies do NOT have lust nor enticement before birth. Therefore babies are NOT born sinful!

God has made men creatures of choice. He has endowed them with the power to choose. Men may choose righteousness and live or sin and die. NO, BABIES DO NOT INHERIT SIN FROM THEIR PARENTS!

(CRS)

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Editorial . . .

SINLESS PERFECTION

The idea that men **must** (or **will** or **do**) **live sinlessly perfect in order to be saved eternally** is advocated by some people. Sometimes it is spoken of as **"sinless perfection," "living above sin,"** or **"entire sanctification."** Under the "Faith and Practices of the Church," page 227 of CHURCH OF GOD POLITY by R. H. Gause we read the following:

"Q. Does a regenerated person sin?
'A. No' (p. 10)."

The above book shows the "official position" of **"The Church of God"** denomination of Cleveland, Tennessee.

There are a few people who are members of the Lord's Church who advocate the doctrine of **"sinless perfection."** I have never personally known anyone who has **practiced** this doctrine.

Is the doctrine of **"living above sin"** true? Is it of faith? Can it be advocated by faith? Or is it a false doctrine? Let us examine the following facts:

1. While praying to God, SOLOMON said: **"If they** (God's people Israel under the Old Covenant—CRS) **sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be**

angry with, and deliver them to the enemy,..." (1 Kings 6:46). NOTE: This was spoken about 1004 B.C.

2. ECCLESIASTES 7:20 says: **"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."** NOTE: This was written about 977 B.C.

3. PAUL said: **"Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:12). NOTE: This was written about 64 A.D.

4. JAMES said: **"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."** (James 3:2). The New American Standard Version words the first part of that verse this way: **"For we all stumble in many ways."** The person who controls or bridles his tongue is indeed perfect, that is, mature. NOTE: This was written about 60 A.D.

5. JOHN, who was a child of God, said: **"If WE say that WE have not sin, WE deceive OURSELVES, and the truth is not in US. If WE confess OUR sins, He is faithful and just to forgive US OUR sins, and to cleanse US from all unrighteousness. If WE say that WE have not sinned, WE make Him a liar, and His Word is not in US."** (1 John 1:8-10). NOTE: This was written about 90 A.D.

6. The Corinthian letter was written **"to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,"** (see 1 Cor. 1:2), but the Corinthians were far from being **sinless**. They were **not "living about sin."** They were **divided** (see 1 Cor. 1:10), and **division is carnality,** (see 1 Cor. 3:3-4), and **carnality is sin!**

We have learned from 1 Kings 8:46 that Solomon said **"for there is no man that sinneth not,"** and from Eccl. 7:20 that he said **"for there is not a man upon earth that doeth good, and sinneth not."** This establishes the fact that **no one lived sinlessly perfect during the Old Testament period.**

The fact that Paul recognized that he had not **"already attained"** or was already **"perfect"** and the fact that he wrote to **"saints"** who were far from being **"above sin"** indicates what he believed about **"sinless perfection."**

When we consider that James said **"we all stumble in many ways"** and that John says **"if we say we have no sin"** the truth is not in us, that should settle the matter with all Bible believers.

(CRS)

IS IT WRONG TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS?

No person can act by **faith** without **knowing God's will** concerning a matter because "**faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" (Romans 10:17). Since only **obedient believers** will be saved by faith, it is imperative that we learn God's will, believe it, and then obey it from the heart. (See Matthew 7:21-23; Hebrews 5:8-9; Galatians 5:6; & James 2:24).

Many sincere people think that God is exalted and honored when they observe **Christmas** as the birthday of Jesus Christ. Since December the 25th is **Christmas**, there are millions of people who celebrate December 25th as the birthday of Jesus Christ. Millions of dollars are spent and many hours expended in putting on plays, pageants and other religious services. **IS THIS DONE BY FAITH?** If so, we should all participate in it. If not, **we dare not so!**

IT IS WRONG TO OBSERVE IT

It is wrong to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ because:

1. **THERE IS NO REAL EVIDENCE THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 25th.** In fact, most scholars agree that it was NOT on December 25th.

2. **ACCORDING TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA, Vol. 6, p. 622,** "The celebration was not observed in the first centuries of the Christian church, since the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth... In the 5th century the Western church ordered the feast to be celebrated on the day of the Mithraic rites of the birth of sun and at the close of the Saturnalia, as no certain knowledge of Christ's birth existed."

3. **IT CAN NOT BE DONE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.** All we do must be done **"in the name of,"** that is, **"by the authority of Christ."** Please read Colossians 3:17 which says: **"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."** Since the Lord Jesus Christ has NOT authorized it, it can NOT be done in his name.

4. **IT IS NOT A GOOD WORK.** The Scripture completely furnishes us to **every good work**, but it does **not** furnish us with authority to observe Christmas in a religious sense. **Therefore, it is NOT a good work!** Please read and consider very

carefully 2 Timothy 3:16-17 which says: **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."**

5. **IT DOES NOT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS.** Peter and other inspired men were given **"all things that pertain unto life and godliness."** (See 2 Peter 1:3). But they were NOT given authority to observe **Christmas** (December 25th) as the birthday of Jesus Christ. **Therefore,** observing Christmas religiously does NOT **"pertain unto life and godliness."**

6. **IT CAN NOT BE DONE TO THE GLORY OF GOD.** Paul said: **"...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."** (1 Cor. 10:31). One can NOT glorify God by observing **Christmas** as the birthday of Christ since it has NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY JESUS CHRIST who has all authority in heaven and earth. In Matthew 28:18 Jesus Christ said: **"...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."**

7. **IT CAN NOT BE DONE BY FAITH.** We are to **"walk by faith, not by sight,"** according to the apostle Paul in 2 Cor. 5:7. But he also tells us that **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** (See Romans 10:17). Since the word of God does **not** authorize the observance of **Christmas** as the birthday of Jesus Christ, **it can NOT be done by faith!**

8. **IT IS A TRANSGRESSION OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST.** 2 John 9 teaches us that we must NOT TRANSGRESS but ABIDE IN the doctrine of Christ in order to have God the Father and Christ the Son. It says: **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."** Since no authority is found in the doctrine of Christ, one must **transgress** the doctrine in order to observe **Christmas** as the birthday of Jesus Christ. This is sinful! John tells us that **"...sin is the transgression of the law."** (1 John 3:4).

CAN YOU GIVE ONE SCRIPTURAL REASON FOR OBSERVING CHRISTMAS AS THE BIRTHDAY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

(CRS)

DID YOU KNOW?

Although many people believe that **we are saved by joining a denomination**, a study of the Scriptures should convince us that such is **NOT** taught in the word of God. **Being in the church is essential to salvation, but joining a denomination will not bring salvation. Joining a denomination will bring about damnation!**

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "...and upon this rock I will build my church: and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it? (Matthew 16:18). NOTE: Jesus Christ made this statement **after** the death of John the Baptist.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, **to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood?**" (Acts 20:28). NOTE: Jesus Christ did **not** purchase **any** denomination, (including the Church of God denomination with its headquarters in Cleveland, TN); neither did he purchase a non-essential, worthless, institution! **The church is essential!**

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "...and the Lord added to the CHURCH **daily such as should be saved?**" (Acts 2:47). NOTE: The Lord always adds the **saved** to the church. He does **not** add the **saved** to human denominations.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**For by one Spirit are we all baptized**

into ONE BODY...?" (1 Cor. 12:13). NOTE: It is by the teaching or instruction of one Spirit that we learn God's will and are baptized into the one body, **the church!** No where in God's Book are we instructed to be baptized into **any** denomination!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**There is ONE BODY, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all...?**" (Eph. 4:4-6). Consider also Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18 & 1 Cor. 12:20).

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE SAYS: "**But he answered and said, Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, SHALL BE ROOTED UP?**" (Matthew 15: 13). NOTE: This was Jesus speaking during his personal ministry upon earth. There is no indication in God's Book that the Father planted **any** of the denominations which now exist.

NO, one can not be saved by joining a denomination! Neither can one be saved eternally if he remains in a denomination!

(CRS)

WE STILL HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY WORD FROM THE WEST HOBBS STREET ELDERS AS TO WHY THEY ARE RELUCTANT TO HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT.

Sentence Sermons

Young Christians may make mistakes working for the Lord, but they will make a bigger mistake by not working for him.

Some people are like blisters — they never show up till the work is almost done.

You may not can change human nature, but perhaps you can improve it.

Knowledge may come by taking things apart, but wisdom comes from putting things together.

A smooth sea never made a successful sailor.

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