

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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ARE YOU DETERMINED NOT TO HEAR GOD'S WORD?

Speaking to the Israelites Isaiah (30:9-10) said: "This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord. Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits."

It is hard for us to fully understand how God's children would rebel against God and lie and get to the point that they would not only not hear the law of the Lord but they would ask seers to "see not" and ask the prophets to *not prophesy* "right things" but to speak unto them "smooth things" and "prophesy deceits." But they did get to that point!

In Acts 22 when Paul was in Jerusalem speaking and giving his defense the Jews listened until he said the Lord said unto him: "Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles." (v. 22). V. 23 says: "And they gave him audience unto this word, and then lifted up their voices, and said, Away with such a fellow from the earth: for it is not fit that he should live." NOTE: When Paul said the word "Gentiles" the Jews were "turned off". They did not want to hear any more of the words that this inspired man of God had to say!

There are many today who do not want to hear the law of the Lord. In fact there are some who are determined not to hear it. Some people will not listen at all! Others (even some of God's children have no desire whatsoever to hear and discuss (or even meditate upon) certain subjects which should be of grave concern to all.

A preacher can be preaching the word of God but when he mentions "*money*" or "*giving*" (see 1 Cor. 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:7-8; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 6:10, 17-18, etc.) or "*human benevolent organizations*" being built & maintained by churches (see 2 John 9; Col. 3:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Eph. 3:21, etc.) or "*immodest dress*" (see 1 Tim. 2:9), or "*the head covering*" (see 1 Cor. 11:1-16) or "*Free Masonry*" (see John 18:20; Mt. 5:33-37; James 5:12; Mt. 23:8-10, etc.), or he may begin discussing "*worldliness*" such as *gambling, social drinking, using tobacco, dancing, etc.* (see 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; 1:27; Rom. 12:1-2, etc.) or some other subject and at that point many people are "*turned off*" & refuse to listen & study what is being taught. *Are you one of those?* Please don't be! (CRS)

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ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Mike Pack

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Gary Chumley

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

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Editorial...

"THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" (Rom. 1:16-17)

In the above text Paul declared: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

Paul probably had reference to Habakkuk 2:4 which says: "Behold, his soul which lifted up in not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith."

In Gal. 3:11 Paul also said: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident: for the just shall live by faith."

The Hebrew writer declared: "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." (10:38).

Without question *faith* is one of the great subjects in the Scriptures. It is a great subject because of a number of reasons. Here are some of them.

1. *It is impossible to please God without faith!* (Heb. 11:6).

2. *By (or through) faith we receive remission of sins!* (Acts 10:43).

3. *We are justified by faith!* (Rom. 5:1).

4. *We are saved by belief (or faith)!* (Acts 16:31; John 3:16).

5. *By faith we are victorious over the world!* (1 John 5:4).

NOTE: Our text says "The just shall live by faith." In fact we have given four passages that basically reveal to us that truth! Let us now consider it.

I. "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH"! This passage does not say that all shall live, but it says "the just" shall live.

Who are "the just"? Those who have been declared just or righteous by the Lord. They are just because they have been "justified". They are "righteous" because they have been forgiven of the sins. They are right with God!

Sinners are "justified" by grace, (Romans 3:24), "justified" by faith, (Romans 5:1), and "justified" by works, (James 2:24). To become "just" or "righteous" we must do "righteousness" and to remain "just" or "righteous" we must continue to do "righteousness." John said: "Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous." (1 John 3:7). Also see Psa. 119:172; Rom. 1:16-17; Acts 10:34-35 & Rom. 3:21).

Paul also said: "Therefore it

is of faith, that it might be by grace..." (Rom. 4:16).

II. THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH!

1. *Not all shall live by faith, but "the just shall live"!*

2. *This suggests that "the just" shall enjoy life. He shall have many blessings! He shall receive spiritual life here with manifest blessings, even many material or physical blessings.* (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Matthew 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8, etc.).

3. *The just shall receive eternal life in the world to come!* (Mark 10:29-30; 1 Tim. 4:8; Titus 1:2; Mt. 25:46; Rom. 6:23; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 5:8-9 & 1 John 2:25).

III. "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH!"

1. *But the just shall not live by faith only!* Eph. 2:5 says: "(...by grace ye are saved;) There is no spiritual life (salvation from past sins) without repentance and baptism! See Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Rom. 6:3-4; James 2:14-26, etc.

2. *The just is to live by being obedient to "the faith", not just to any so-called faith!* Most of the time the expression "the faith" refers to "the system of faith," "the gospel of Jesus Christ", "the word of God" as in the following passages.

In Rom. 1:5 Paul mentions "obedience to the faith".

Acts 6:7 says: "...and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

In Acts 14:22 Paul and Barnabas confirmed the souls of the disciples and exhorted them "to continue in the faith."

We learn from Acts 16:5 "so were the churches established in

the faith, and increased in number daily."

In Gal. 1:23 Paul said: "But they [the churches of Judea] had heard only, That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed."

Jude (v.3) wrote to saints saying: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

3. *The just shall not live by just any degree of faith!*

In Mark 4:40 Jesus mentioned the fact that the disciples had "no faith" at that time which was evidenced by their being so fearful. Also see Mt. 8:26.

A. Not by a *dead* faith! In James 2:17 we read: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

B. Not by *little* faith! In Mt. 6:25-33 Jesus teaches His disciples to "Take no thought..." that is, do not be overly concerned, or anxious about the essentials of life [food, drink, clothing]. In other words, "Do not worry" about these things. If they did so it indicated that they were "of little faith." (See verse 30.) Also read and study Mt. 14:22-32.

4. Many think that the just shall live by:

- (A) The law of Moses.
- (B) Faith only.
- (C) Creeds of men.
- (D) Opinions.

NOTE: There is absolutely no evidence in the word of God that any one may live by any of the things listed above and please God!

Our text says very clearly:
"The just shall live by faith," but not by faith in just anything. It is not by faith in men and their teaching. (Mt. 15:8-9). Neither is it by faith in relatives nor the plants of men. (See Mt. 10:37; Mat. 15:13).

IV. THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD AND IN CHRIST.

1. The faith in God and in Christ by which the just shall live "Cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Rom. 10:8, 17). Also see Mt. 4:4 & Luke 4:4.

2. The faith by which the just shall live is "great faith." (See Mt. 8:10). It is belief and trust in God that leads one to obey His will!

3. The faith by which the just shall live is an "unfeigned [genuine] faith" like Lois, Eunice and

Timothy had. (2 Tim. 1:5).

4. The faith by which the just shall live is "faith which worketh by love." (See Gal. 5:6). It is a faith that prompts obedience to God's Word!

Do you have the proper faith to live by here that you may be saved eternally? (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at the Marrtown Road Church of Christ in Parkersburg, WV November 1 - 6, 2009--Carrol R. Sutton will be preaching. Plan to attend! Tell others!

DO YOU AGREE that man did not come from the monkey, but some men act like "ally cats", and seems to be going to the dogs? (CRS)

NOTICE: The bound volumes of the last 9 years (2000 - 2008) of The Instructor should be ready for distribution within 45-60 days. If you have already requested a copy we have your name and address in a notebook. If you haven't sent in your request, please do so at your convenience, if you want to receive one. Copies of the bound volumes will be mailed when they are ready. They are free.

SENTENCE SERMONS

It seems that some people think by the inch and talk by the yard.

If you are lost, get in the right way and go straight.

The flesh and the spirit are contrary one to the other. They cannot cooperate!

Many people have more dollars than sense!

The most dangerous leap in the world is to jump to an unwarranted conclusion!

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

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