

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 IS YOUR GOD?

Man is a worshipful being. He is going to pay homage to someone whether it be to himself or to another. He may say that there is no God but in the same breath he is saying there is one. For, when one asserts that there is no supreme being, he is setting himself and mankind as supreme beings—and he would have to be God to prove his statement.

Not all people worship and serve the God we serve—the true and living God. And taking a closer look, one would be convinced that many of us do not acknowledge him either. For our God becomes God to us because of the time that we give him, the worship that we offer Him."

Who is your God? Is he the true God of heaven or some object that you have created? Is he spiritual or is he physical? Is he heavenly or is he earthly? You might not bow to a man-made idol as the heathen have done; you might not worship the sun, moon, and stars; but you may be bowing to something else, which in reality amounts to the same.

PLEASURE. All they can think of is having a good time. They feel that they must sow their wild oats. However, they fail to realize that as sure as they sow they must reap. Paul writes, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:7-8)

Others worship the GOD OF MONEY. To them money is the almighty, and they even speak of the "almighty dollar." But money has been the ruin of many a person. Paul says, "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while come coveted after, they have pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim. 6:10). Money may do many things but money can do this too. It may be a powerful weapon for good, but if mishandled it can be a more powerful weapon for bad. Is money your god? Be careful! Don't put your

Many have bowed to the GOD OF

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Editorial....

Are You Sure? (No. 2)

In our study last month we asked several questions relative to people being sure of certain things. We asked, **are you sure that a person can be saved by faith only?** We requested the passage that teaches such. We also asked, **are you sure that an alien sinner can be saved by praying through?** We requested the passage that teaches such. We further raised questions relative to being in the **right church, of wearing the right name and of worshipping in the right way.** These questions were asked in order to provoke your thinking and to encourage you to study carefully God's word so that you may see that you are lost if you have not obeyed the gospel of Christ and are not in the church that Christ purchased with his blood and thus wearing the name of Christ. Our study last month was designed primarily for those who are not Christians, but this study is designed primarily for those who are members of the New Testament church.

ARE YOU SURE that it is Scriptural for churches to make contributions to benevolent societies such as CHILDHAVEN, BOLES ORPHAN HOME, HOME FOR THE AGED, etc. for the care of the needy? It is not enough for you to say "it is a good work." If you

are going to encourage and practice this, you ought to be sure that it is right. Do you know of a passage that authorizes such? If so, where is the passage? Do you go along with it because your preacher says it is good and right and that those who oppose it are "antis" and "hobby riders?" If your preacher or "elders" are sure that it is Scriptural, why aren't they willing to produce the passage or passages that authorizes such? Why aren't they willing to enter a Series of discussions with those of us who question their practice? Is it because they are not absolutely sure that such a practice is authorized in the New Testament and that they are simply afraid to have their position publicly examined for fear that you and others might see the error they are espousing? If not, why aren't they willing to contend for what they believe to be "the faith?" Do they think that you are not capable of discerning between truth and error when you hear both "sides" of this question discussed?

The issue is not a question as to whether the church has an obligation in the field of relief because this is clearly taught in such passages as Acts 6:1-6 and 1 Timothy 5:16. It is a question as to whether churches have a Scriptural right to contribute out of their treasuries to human organizations that they in turn might do relief work of their own choosing.

Brethren, do you believe that it is right for churches to contribute to human societies in the field of relief because your preacher or "elders" told you that those who question their practice do not believe in caring for the needy and that they would let an orphan starve if they found one on the doorstep of their building? Suppose such accusations, if made, are so; would this authorize churches to contribute to human societies?

Brethren, please be honest. Could it be that you have been misled? Why not make a thorough and candid investigation of these matters?

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trust into it. Don't crave it. Don't lust after it. Be content with what you have. Salvation does not come by such things as silver and gold but by the precious blood of Christ. (1 Pet. 1:18-19).

Thousands worship the GOD OF FASHION. If it is the fashion to be immodest in their dress, they are immodest. Oh no, they just couldn't go contrary to the fashion of the day. But we read, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array." (1 Tim. 2:9). Fashion, to some extent, may be all right, but fashion for fashion's sake is wrong. It is certainly commendable to dress in good taste, but when one throws away every principle and submits to the fashion world to do as it directs regardless of cost, modesty, etc., it becomes exceedingly wrong. If more would think less of such things and think more of their spiritual makeup, it might do some good. Remember, you may be in fashion with the world but out of fashion with God. Which do you prefer?

The GOD OF POWER has its followers. Nations and countries have gone to war because of a desire for power. Men have sought to obtain this through the accumulation of money and property. Thus it seems that the average person isn't satisfied unless he is considered "boss" or unless he is recognized as being the top man. But power can destroy one just as easily as it can build one up. It is because of the lust for power that nations, organizations, businesses, and individuals have been devoured and swallowed up. Remember, regardless of how far one may go in this world, he can go but so far. There is always one who is a little higher. The Bible teaches that Christ has all power in heaven and in earth. (Matt. 28:18).

Another GOD IS called PRIDE. Too many people think more of their pride than they do their soul. There are those

who should obey the gospel but pride holds them back. Many others need to repent of their sins and pray that God will forgive them but they do not because of their haughty spirit. Some need help physically but pride keeps them from asking. Yes, pride is a funny thing. It hinders in many ways. Christ has said, "For every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." (Lk. 18:14).

The GOD OF DENOMINATIONALISM has spellbound the majority of people in this country. The average man will join a demonstration before he'll become a member of the Lord's church. He'll wear the name of some man rather than the name of Christ. Consequently, man honors man's plan of salvation over the Lord's. But we read, "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Rom. 16:17). Christ said that their worship is in vain. (Matt. 15:9)

There is another GOD NAMED PRAISE. Many do everything for the praise of men. They love glory and honor. They had rather be popular with man than be found on the Lord's side. But the love of praise can be one's downfall. Christ says in Matthew 6 that if one does what he does for the praise of men that he already has his reward.

My friend, who is your God? Is he one of those that we have mentioned or is he the one true God of the Bible? Paul says in Ephesians 4:6 that there is but one, so we must make up our minds who we shall serve. Will it be an idol or will it be the God of Heaven?

In the long ago when the people of Israel had a similar choice, Joshua said "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day

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whom ye will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh. 24:14-15).

—J. C. Choate in CHRISTIAN
WORKER, Nov. 5, 1959.

The Apostle Paul Said

"Now I beeseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined in the same mind and in the same judgment." (1 Cor. 1:10).

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SENTENCE SERMONS

Some "Christians" are like kites—if you do not keep a string on them, they will fly away.

Many would never have known want, if they had not first known waste.

You should set your affection on things above and not on the things of the earth.

Deeper giving means deeper living.

He who can live contented with little, in reality possesses much.

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