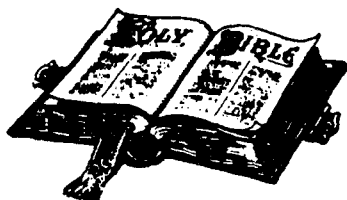


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

OCTOBER, 1995

Number 10

CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS (No.1)

Each responsible person is to be a **builder**. One can be a **wise** builder or he can be a **foolish** builder. (See Matthew 7:24-27). To be **wise** (and thus **successful**) as a **builder**, one must build upon a true, solid foundation. **The foundation upon which we must build is Jesus Christ!** He is a **"tried"** and **"sure"** foundation! (See Isaiah 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6 & 1 Cor. 3:11). In order to build those things which would glorify God, it is **essential** that we build according to **God's instructions!**

God has given us a blueprint, a **pattern** to follow as we build. (See Hebrews 8:4-5; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Cor. 4:6; James 1:25; 2:12; Col. 3:17; Romans 10:17; 2 John 9 and John 12:48). **We must listen! We must learn! We must have faith! We must obey! We must build!** Here are some things that **Christians must build**. We must build:

1. **GOOD NAMES!** A good name is a very valuable asset! We learn from Eccl. 7:1 that **"A good name is better than precious ointment..."** In a quest for earthly riches or worldly honor and fame many people have forfeited a good name. Some have exchanged a good name for earthly

riches. A wise man of long ago declared that **"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold."** (Prov. 22:1).

There is a difference in **character** and **reputation**, but each of us should earnestly endeavor to have both a **sterling character** and a **good name**. **Character** is what **we are** and **reputation** is what others **think we are**. We **can** and **should** build both **character** and **reputation**. We should **never** try to build a **good reputation** at the expense of **true character!** Building **true character** comes first. **Reputation** follows!

In order for a man to qualify as a bishop **"...He must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."** (1 Tim. 3:7).

As we build **good names** we must keep in mind that Jesus warned: **"Woe unto you, when all men speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets."** (Luke 6:26). In view of this warning we must be sure that we are **not** seeking **"to please men"** but seeking to **please God!**

(Continued on page 4)

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.

CARROL R. SUTTON
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama 35950.

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950

Editorial ...

CONFESSION

"Confession" is a Scriptural subject. It appears in both Old and New Testaments. **"Confess"** means to **own, acknowledge, or avow.** Various things may be **confessed**, i.e., **owned, acknowledged or avowed.**

In OLD TESTAMENT times:

A. ISRAEL CONFESSED THE NAME OF GOD! For example, Solomon (in his prayer to God) said: **"When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and CONFESS THY NAME, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers."**

B. SINS WERE CONFESSED! Note the following passages.

Lev. 5:5- **"And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall CONFESS THAT HE SINNED IN THAT THING."**

In Neh. 1:4-7 Nehemiah CONFESSED THE SINS of Israel to God.

In Neh. 9:2 we read: **"And the seed of Israel separated them-**

selves from all strangers, and stood and CONFESSED THIER SINS, and the iniquities of their fathers.

In Ezra 10:1 Ezra prayed and CONFESSED weeping.

In Ezra 10:10-12 Ezra called upon the children of Israel TO CONFESS and do God's pleasure. (Please read).

Joshua 7:19- **"And Joshua said unto Achan, My Son, give, I pray thee, glory to the Lord God of Israel, and make CONFESSION unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me."** (Also read 7:20-21).

Psalm 32:5- **"I ACKNOWLEDGED MY SIN unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I WILL CONFESS MY TRANSGRESSIONS UNTO THE LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."**

In Daniel 9:3-6, Daniel CONFESSED his sins and the sins of Israel unto the Lord! In verse 5 Daniel said. **"We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments."**

NOTE: These were God's children who confessed their sins!

Solomon said: **"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso CONFESSETH and forsaketh them shall have mercy."**

Although it is recorded in the New Testament Scriptures, the statement by Paul in Acts 23:8 was probably descriptive of the Sadducees and Pharisees during the Old Testament period as well as at the time that he spake. Paul said: **"For the Saducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees CONFESS both."**

Let us now consider the subject of **"Confession"** AS REVEALED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. The word **"confess"** in all forms appears more

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

CONFESSION

than 25 times in the New Testament Scriptures.

To understand what the NEW TESTAMENT teaches about "**confession**" please consider the following facts.

I. SOME BELIEVED BUT WOULD NOT CONFESS CHRIST HE WAS ON EARTH! There were:

A. The chief rulers! In John 12:42-43 we read: "**Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they DID NOT CONFESS HIM, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.**"

B. The parents of the blind man in John 9:18-23! Read the passage but particularly note verse 22-23 which says: "**These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did CONFESS that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents. He is of age; ask him.**"

NOTE: Some today will **not confess Christ** because either they "fear others" or they "love the praise of men more than the praise of God" and do not want to "**be put out of the synagogue.**"

II. TO BE CONFESSED OF CHRIST, WE MUST CONFESS HIM! Jesus said: "**Whosoever therefore shall CONFESS me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.**" (Mt. 10:32-33; Also see Luke 12:8-9).

NOTE: To be **confessed** by Christ before the Father in heaven, we must **confess Christ** before men!

III. TO BE SAVED WE MUST

CONFESS THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD! Consider the following passages.

Romans 10:9-10- "**That if thou shalt CONFESS with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth CONFSSION is made unto salvation.**"

I John 4:15- "**Whosoever shall CONFESS THAT Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.**"

Cf. Phil. 2:3-9- "**Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue SHOULD CONFESS that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**"

NOTE: Although **confession** is a **condition** of salvation we learn from other passages that there are also **other conditions** of salvation! **Faith, repentance and baptism** are also **conditions** of salvation! (See Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; Acts 16:31; 17:30; 3:19; Mark 16:15-16 and Acts 2:38). **Before** the eunuch was baptized he **confessed his faith** in Jesus christ as the **Son of God!** (Cf. Acts 8:36-37).

IV. GOD'S CHILDREN MUST CONFESS THEIR SINS WHEN THEY HAVE SUCH! James said: "**Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed**" (5:16) and John said: "**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,...**" (1 John 1:9)

God's children must also **repent and pray** for forgiveness. (See Acts 8:22).

V. CHRIST WILL CONFESS THE
(CRS)

(Continued from page 3)

"CONFESSION"

NAME OF THE OVERCOMER BEFORE THE FATHER AND HIS ANGELS! In the letter to the church in Sardis, Jesus said: **"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."**

NOTE: There is **no example** in the **New Testament** of **any person** who ever **confessed BEFORE** baptism that he **was already saved!**

If **you** are not a child of God, you **must confess Christ** in order to be saved! If **you ARE** a child of God who has unforgiven sins, **you confess them in order to be forgiven!**

(Continued from page 1)

"CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS"

It may take years to build a **good reputation**, but **ONE careless, sinful act** can destroy it! It may take years to **re-build** a good reputation. Honesty, truthfulness, kindness, forgiveness and fairness are some traits that **will build** both a **true character** and a **good name**.

Do **YOU** have a **good name**? Do **YOU** have **good character**? Neither just happen. They must be built! If you want a **good name** begin by developing or **building a good solid character!** **NOW** is the time to begin!

(To be continued)

(CRS)

PROVERBS 24:10- "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

It is better to fall down on a job than to lay down.

* * * * *

People who "kneel" more seem to "lie" less.

* * * * *

Kindness always pays, but it pays most when you don't do it for pay.

* * * * *

Deeper giving means deeper living.

* * * * *

Where there is no sorrow for sin, there will be much sorrow because of sin.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

4777 U.S. Highway 431

Albertville, Alabama 35950

Second-Class Postage