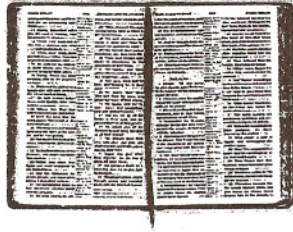


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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## SOME THINGS WE SHOULD DO

There are many things that we (as Christians) should do. Let us consider a few of them in this study.

### 1. STUDY TO BE QUIET.

In 1 Thess. 4:11 Paul said: "**Study to be quiet & to do your own business...**" The NASV says: "**make it your ambition to lead a quiet life...**" The thought is to strive earnestly. "*Being quiet*" indicates "*tranquility arising from within, causing no disturbance to others*" according to W. E. Vine. Also see 1 Tim. 2:2.

### 2. REDEEM THE TIME.

Paul said: "**Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time**" and **Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**" (Col. 4:5; Eph. 5:16). "*Redeeming time*" is the idea of "*buying up for oneself...buying up the opportunity...making the most of every opportunity; turning each to the best advantage, since none can be recalled if missed.*" (W. E. Vine) NOTE: We should not waste time but make the proper use of it!

### 3. SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD & HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Jesus said: "**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.**" (Mt. 6:33). Also see Mt. 10:35-37; Mk. 10:28-30; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:11-12).

### 4. FIGHT THE GOOD

**FIGHT OF FAITH!** Read & study carefully 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3; 4:6-8; Eph. 6:10 & 2 Cor. 10:3.

### 5. LOVE IN DEED & IN

**TRUTH!** Read & study carefully I John 3:17-18; John 13:35 & James 2:14.

**6. CONTEND EARNESTLY FOR THE FAITH!** Jude 3 says "**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.**"

NOTE: W. E. Vine says this means "*To contend about a thing, as a combatant...*" Cruden says it means "*To stand by and defend.*" We withstand all who would pervert the gospel. Also read & carefully study Acts 15:2, 7; 17:17; 19:8-9.

The above verses certainly indicate that Christians should earnestly contend, i.e., discuss or dispute for the faith which was once delivered to the saints! (CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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## Editorial...

### DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? (Concluded)

Thus far we have raised and discussed the questions: **DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE:**

I. WHAT IS PREACHED?

II. WHICH CHURCH A PERSON IS A PART OF AND SUPPORTS?

III. WHAT LAW WE ARE UNDER - THE OLD OR THE NEW? THE FIRST OR THE SECOND?

IV. HOW THE LOST ARE SAVED?

V. HOW WE WORSHIP GOD?

VI. WHAT NAME WE WEAR?

**NOTE:** We showed from the Scriptures that *it does make a difference!* Let us now resume our consideration of the question,

### **DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?**

VII. HOW WE SERVE GOD?

Many people claim that it does

not make any difference as to *how we serve God*. However, the Word of God teaches otherwise. Let us consider some Scriptures.

(1) In Deut. 6:13 God commanded Israel (through) Moses saying, "**Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve him...**" He further said in Deut. 10:12: "**And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.**" (See Deut. 10:20; 11:13; 13:4, etc.)

**NOTE:** Under the O. T. God demanded that his people serve him.

(2) We must serve God *with humility*. Paul said: "**Serving the Lord with all humility of mind.**" (Acts 20:19). James said: "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.**" (4:10). Peter exhorted saints, saying, "**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.**" (1 Pet. 5:6). In verse 5, Peter said: "**...and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.**"

Read the parable of Luke 18:9-14 where two men (a Pharisee and a publican) went up into the temple to pray and be impressed with the humility the publican had and the blessing (justification) he received in contrast with the pride the Pharisee manifested and the fact that he would be abased.

**QUESTION:** Will God accept our service if it is filled with arrogance, pride and haughtiness? If not, then it certainly *does* make a difference as to how we serve God! Why would anyone



even think that it does not matter?

(3) Our service to God *must be with reverence and godly fear!* The psalmist said: "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." (Psa. 89:7). In Psa. 111:9 we read: "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." NOTE: These passages indicate that under the first covenant that God required his people to serve Him *with reverence and godly fear!*

In his letter to the Hebrew Christians, the writer said: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire." (12:28-29). NOTE: From this verse we learn that for our service to be acceptable to God, *it must be with reverence and godly fear!*

(4) Our service *must be with sincerity!* Speaking to the Israelites a long time ago Joshua said: "Now therefore serve the Lord in sincerity and in truth..." (24:14).

In Titus 2:7 Paul said: "...in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity."

To the Philippian saints he said: "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." (1:10).

NOTE: Serving God with sincerity is practically equivalent to "in spirit" as Jesus mentioned about worship in John 4:24.

QUESTION: Does it make any difference as to whether or not we are sincere in our service

to God? Without question, *it does make a difference as to how we serve God!* For our service to be accepted of God, *it must be done with humility in sincerity and in truth. It must also be done with reverence and godly fear!*

## VIII. HOW WE LIVE?

Contrary to what many people believe and teach, it does make a difference as to how we live. God's word is very plain along this line. Notice the following Scriptures and you can clearly see that God is concerned about how we live.

(1) Titus 2:11-12- "**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.**"

NOTE: God's grace that saves us teaches us how we should live! Do you still say that it makes no difference how we live? If you do, you are denying the plain word of God!

(2) Although we live *in* the world we are not to be *of* the world. (See John 17:14-16). We should not be friends with the world nor love the world. (See James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17). We are commanded to. "**Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed...**" (Rom. 12:1-2). NOTE: Suppose we are *of* the world, are *friends* with the world, *love* the world and *conform* to the world, *will it make any difference with the Lord?* Surely it will!

Paul commanded: "**Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which**

things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience." (Col. 3:5-6). In view of the fact that the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience, how can anyone say that it makes no difference how we live as children of God? It is preposterous! Do you agree?

(3) In Col. 3:8-10 Paul told saints to "... Put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man." In verses 12-15 he further said: "Put on therefore...bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another...Above all things put on charity...and let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and

be ye thankful...." QUESTION: In view of the statements could a person honestly say that it makes no difference how we live?

(4) Referring to the works of the flesh, Paul said: "...**they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (See Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11) Yes, it does matter as to how we live! Indeed, *it does make a difference!*

What difference does it make what a person believes and practices in religious matters?

The difference that it makes is that in one case a person is obeying God and other cases he is not! The difference is whether a person wants to be saved in heaven or lost eternally in hell!

(CRS)

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**GOSPEL MEETING at Clintwood, VA**  
October 26-31, '08 - *Carrol R. Sutton, preaching.*  
Make plans to visit with us and please tell others!

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Deal with the faults of others as you would have them to deal with yours.

\* \* \* \* \*

A person wrapped up in himself makes a very small package.

\* \* \* \* \*

A long walk will often control a short temper.

\* \* \* \* \*

Be very careful with "half truths" because you may have the wrong half.

\* \* \* \* \*

A person who is contented with what he has is indeed rich – and happy!

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