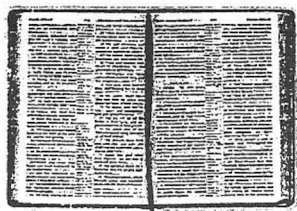


# THE INSTRUCTOR



"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 46

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A VOICE FROM THE PAST --

## DIVISIONS MUST COME

Division in the churches is painful. It wrings the heart with anguish. But God asked: "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3). This is a strange declaration that they cannot. It is true as applied to both God and man.

Can you walk with God except you agree with him? He claims to be the Lord, the only ruler of the universe. Can you walk with him while you insist on making laws and changing his order? It applies to man.

Can two walk together when one insists on going another way? Often those we love most force us to the choice as to whether we will cling to God or go with them. If we love God better than we love them, we will cling to God and his ways. If division must come, let it come along the lines of love and loyalty to God.

If we separate from others and do not walk with God, another separation must come. Separation after separation must

come until the lines of cleavage run with the line of loyalty to God. Until division along this line is reached, divisions must continue and multiply. So soon as, and not until, division along this line is reached, the union with God and among those true to him will be permanent.

God is directing these things and does all things well. All we have to do is to stand true and firm to God and his word all along the line, and leave results with him. We can do nothing else.

We are poor and foolish and weak. God is wise and strong. Our only hope is to walk with God and be true to God in all things.

*"For there must be also heresies [divisions] among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you." (1 Cor. 11:19).*

Divisions must come until we are all willing to be led by God.

---David Lipscomb in  
The Gospel Advocate, Sept. 4, 1941

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## Editorial...

### THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD

(Concluded)

In a prior article on this subject, it was shown from the Scriptures that God's grace and love are sufficient! It was also proven by the Scriptures that God's Son is sufficient! Let us continue discussing *"the sufficiency of God"*.

Different terms or expressions are used to describe God's Word. Here are some of them: *"the word"* (Acts 17:11); *"the word of God"* (Acts 4:31); *"the word of his grace"* (Acts 20:32); *"the word of Christ"* (Col. 3:17); *"the word of faith"* (Rom. 10:8); *"the law of liberty"* (James 2:12); *"the gospel"* (1 Cor. 4:15); *"the gospel of Christ"* (Rom. 1:16); *"the gospel of God"* (Rom. 1:1); *"the faith"* (Acts 6:7); *"the doctrine of Christ"* (2 John 9), etc.

4. THE WORD OF GOD IS SUFFICIENT! The word of God is revealed in the Scriptures! "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." (2 Tim. 3:16-17). NOTE: We must conclude from this passage that *"all scripture" furnishes* the man of God to all good works!

In James 1:25 we learn that *"Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."* NOTE: We have in the New Testament a *"perfect"* or complete law that liberates us from sin!

We read in 2 John 9 that *"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."* NOTE: To have both the Father and the Son, we must abide in the doctrine of Christ! This certainly indicates that doctrine does matter! The Scripture *"is profitable for doctrine..."* (2 Tim. 3:16). The doctrine that we abide in must be *"sound doctrine."* (See 1 Tim. 1:10; Tit. 1:9; 2:1).

Let us consider and emphasize the following facts about the Word of God.

(a) *It is from God!* Paul declared in 1 Thess. 2:13: *"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing; because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not*

as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." Also read and study carefully 2 Sam. 22:1; Heb. 1:1-2; Eph. 3:2-6; Gal. 1:11-12 & 2 Tim. 3:16-17.

(b) *It will endure for ever! It will never pass away!* Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 24:35). Peter said: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (1 Peter 1:23-25). Also see Isaiah 59:20-21.

(c) *It is pure, very pure!* Agur declared: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." (Proverbs 30:5-6). In Psalms 119:140 the Psalmist said unto the Lord: "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it."

(d) *It is "the seed", the "incorruptible seed", "which liveth and abideth forever".* Jesus said: "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God." (Luke 8:11). Peter said: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (1 Peter 1:23).

Let us consider the fact that the word of God as revealed in the New Testament will or can do the following things!

(a) *The word of God can give us light.* The Psalmist said; "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psa. 119: 105.) In 2 Cor. 4:4 the apostle Paul mentions "the light of the glorious gospel of Christ." Also see Psalms 119:130.

(b) *It can make us wise unto salvation.* In 2 Tim. 3:15 the apostle Paul said unto Timothy: "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." The Psalmist declared that "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple." (19:7).

(c) *It can give us understanding!* Consider the following passages.

--Psalms 119:104- "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way."

--Psalms 119:130- "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding to the simple."

--Eph. 3:2-6- "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)"

-- 2 Timothy 2:7- "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

--Eph. 5:17- "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."

NOTE: Yes the word of God is able to give understanding!

(d) *The word of God is able to produce faith in our hearts!* Paul mentions "the word of faith, which we preach" in Rom. 10:8. We learn from Rom.

10:17 that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

(e) *The word of God is able to save our souls!* James says: "...and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls." (1:21). Paul declared that "it (the gospel - CRS) is the power of God unto salvation..." (Rom. 1:16). Also see Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:22-25 & Eph. 1:13).

(f) *The word of God will judge us in the last day!* Jesus said: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." (John 12:48). Also see Acts 10:42; 2 Cor. 5:10).

5. GOD'S CHURCH IS SUFFICIENT! We learn from Eph. 3:10-11 that the church is "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord." It was not an "afterthought on the part of God!

In Mt. 16:18 Jesus said: "Upon this rock I will build my

church..." and He did! We learn from Acts 20:28 that He purchased the church "with his own blood."

The church for which Christ died and over which He reigns as the supreme head, is the church of which Jesus Christ is Saviour. (See Eph. 5:23-27)

The saved ones (those who have had their past sins remitted) are the ones who the Lord adds to the church. (See Acts 2:47).

Organizationally, there are local churches made up of saints with bishops (elders) and deacons. (See Phil. 1:1, etc.).

The church (as God designed it) is sufficient to every thing that God has assigned it to do. It is sufficient to accomplish its worship and work without building and/or maintaining human organizations! Amen! (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at the Marrtown Rd.  
Church of Christ, Parkersburg, WV. Nov. 1-6,  
2009. Carrol R. Sutton, Albertville, AL. Speaker.

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Happiness does not depend on what we have, but it does depend on what we are.!

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Self-control is the ability to let your light shine even after you have blown a fuse.

\* \* \* \* \*

Truth, if not known, believed and obeyed, will not set the servants of sin free!

\* \* \* \* \*

Make sure you are not "fertilizing" the "wild oats" your "teenager" is sowing!

\* \* \* \* \*

Men are great only when they are humble, kind and obedient to the gospel of Christ

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