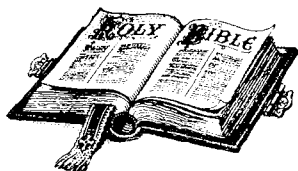


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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DO YOU BELIEVE IN THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD?

Although the Bible teaches the **"sufficiency"** of God, many people seem to doubt.

1. **GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT!** The unmerited favor (free mercy) of God toward humanity is indeed adequate. We should respect and obey **the Word of His grace**, lest we receive the grace of God in vain. (See Titus 2:11-12; Acts 20: 32; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 15:10; 2 Cor. 12:9; 2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Peter 5:10; 2 Cor. 6:1.

2. **GOD'S LOVE IS SUFFICIENT!** The love of God was manifested to the world by the sacrifice of His Son for the sins of the world. His love is adequate to provide for the needs of men. (See John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:7-10; 4:19).

3. **GOD'S SON IS SUFFICIENT!** Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of woman, lived among men, was tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin, learned obedience by the things which he suffered, and gave Himself for our sins. He is truly **"the way, the truth, and the life."** (See Gal. 4:4-5; Heb. 4:15; Heb. 5:8-9; Titus 2:14-15; John 14:6). If we do not follow Christ, **"to whom shall we go?"** He has the words of **"eternal life."**

4. **GOD'S WORD IS SUFFICIENT!** Human creeds **can not save us** or **unite us**, but they **can** and **will divide us** and **cause us to be lost eternally**. The following verses show the **adequacy** of the Word of God and

the necessity of obeying it. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Matthew 4:4; James 1:25; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 1:8; 2 John 9-11; James 2:12; Matthew 7:21; Revelation 22:14).

5. **GOD'S CHURCH IS SUFFICIENT!** Since the church is according to God's eternal purpose and is a manifestation of His wisdom, we dare not question its adequacy. It is adequate to be saved in, to worship and work in as God's people. We need **NO ORGANIZATION** larger or smaller than the local church through which to accomplish the work God has assigned for His church to do. (See Eph. 3:10-11; Acts. 20:28; Eph. 5:23-27; Eph. 3:21; Col. 2:10; Matthew 15:13 & Acts 2:47). **Human organizations** through which God's people may function in organized capacity to carry out the work and worship of the church are not authorized in God's Book! "The ship of Zion has floundered more than once on the sandbar of institutionalism. The tendency to organize is characteristic of the age." We should be satisfied with the church as God ordained it. We should let the church of God do the work God has assigned it in the way that God has ordained.

If you would please God and be saved eternally, it is imperative that you accept **God's sufficiency!** **WE URGE YOU TO ACCEPT IT!**
(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial— — —

SOME THINGS GOD HAS NOT PROMISED

No one has the right to claim that God has promised something unless the Word of God indicates that God really has. The apostle Peter said: **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God;..."** (1 Pet. 4:11). Let us consider **some things God has not promised. God has not promised:**

1. TO HEAR AN ALIEN SINNER'S PRAYER. During the Old Testament age Solomon said: **"He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination."** (Prov. 28:9). The blind man whom Jesus healed said: **"Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth."** (John 9:31). We learn from Peter that **"the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."** (1 Pet. 3:12).

2. TO SAVE SINNERS BY FAITH ONLY. Faith is indeed essential to salvation. (See Rom. 5:1; John 3:36; Heb. 11:6). However, **one can not be saved by faith only!** In contrast with a dead, passive, disobedient faith, it takes a living, an active, obedient faith to save sinners. Faith without works is dead. James 2:24 says **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."**

3. TO SAVE SINNERS WITHOUT BAPTISM. Although many preachers promise salvation before and without water baptism, **God does not make such a promise.** Jesus said: **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** (Mark 16:16). Peter says that baptism is **"for the remission of sins"** (Acts 2:38), and that it **"saves us."** (1 Pet. 3:21). Paul tells us that we are **"Baptized into Christ."** (See Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27).

4. TO SAVE A MAN JUST BECAUSE HE HAS A GOOD CONSCIENCE. Prior to his conversion, Saul of Tarsus had **"lived in all good conscience before God"** (Acts 23:1) while being a **"Persecutor"** and a **"blasphemer"** of Christians. (See 1 Tim. 1:13-15). He **"verily thought"** he ought to act contrary to the name of Jesus. Although his conscience was clear, **he was lost in sin.** In order to be saved by grace, Saul had to obey the gospel. (See Acts 9, 22, & 26).

5. TO SAVE MEN IN DENOMINATION-ALISM. Though men promise themselves and others salvation in human institutions, **God has not made such a promise.** The Lord's church not a denomination, was purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ. (See Acts 20:28). **"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."** (Acts 2:47). Jesus died for all to be united in **"one body, the church."** (See John 17:20-22; Eph. 2:14-16; Col. 1:18). Denominations are destined to be **rooted up.** (See Matt. 15:13). If you are in a denomination, you will be lost unless you get out before the **"rooting"** day comes.

6. TO ACCEPT SPRINKLING FOR BAPTISM. John baptized in Aenon near to Salim **"because there was much water there..."** (John 3:23). Paul tells us in Rom. 6:4 and Col. 2:12 that **baptism is a burial.** The eunuch **"came unto a certain water..., went down into the water..., was baptized, came 'up out of the water'" and went on his way "rejoicing."** (Acts 8:26-39).

7. TO ACCEPT MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC IN OR AS WORSHIP. Jesus teaches in John 4:23-24 that **true worship must be in spirit and in truth.** The Word of God as revealed in the New Testament is the truth we must follow in order to worship God acceptably. **The New Testament does not authorize instrumental music in worship unto God.** Those who use such in worship are following the doctrines of men and their worship is in vain. (See

(Continued on page 3)

HOW DO WE GET FAITH?

One can not please God without **true faith**. Hebrews 11:6 says: **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."** Since it is imperative that we believe, we should desire faith. Let us now consider: **"How do we get Faith?"**

ONE DOES NOT RECEIVE FAITH:

1. **BY INSTINCT.** Hereditary factors prompt many actions in the animal kingdom. However, a person is **NOT** born with faith. If faith came by instinct, then every person born would have faith; yet **"the unbelieving"** are mentioned in Revelation 21:8.

2. **MIRACULOUSLY.** There is absolutely no evidence that God sends His Spirit to **miraculously impart faith** to a lost sinner. In the first century when **miraculous** power was manifested by the apostles (and some others), there is not a single case where they **miraculously** imparted faith to a dead sinner.

3. **BY PRAYING.** The alien sinner is never instructed in the New Testament to pray. He is told to believe, repent and be baptized. (See Acts 16:30-34; Acts 2:36-47). The children of God are taught to pray. (See 1 Thess. 5:17; James 5:16; 1 Timothy 2:8; Eph. 6:18; Romans 12:12; Col. 4:2). **Faith does not come by prayer!**

4. **BY HEARING HUMAN PHILOSOPHY.** Paul said: **"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."** (Col. 2:8). **NOTE:** We are warned against philosophy and vain deceit. It can not produce faith.

5. **BY HEARING THE COMMANDMENTS AND TRADITIONS OF MEN.** Matthew 15:9 says: **"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."** (See also Mark 7:13 which says: **"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."**) **NOTE:** The doctrines and traditions of men, when followed, will make void the word of God and cause one's worship to be in vain.

ONE DOES RECEIVE FAITH:

BY HEARING GOD'S WORD. In Romans 10:17 Pauls says: **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** **NOTE:** This says that **faith comes**

by hearing the Word of God. John 20:30-31 says: **"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."** **FURTHER NOTE:** He we learn that some things are written in order to produce faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. We must **hear** what God's Word says in order to have faith.

Dear reader, you can not have faith unless you **HEAR THE WORD OF GOD!** Human philosophy, vain deceit, traditions, doctrines and commandments of men will not produce genuine faith in God or in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. **We urge you to hear the Word of the Lord and live by faith!**

(CRS)

PROVERBS 27:6 says: **"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."**

(Continued from page 2)

SOME THINGS GOD HAS NOT PROMISED

Matthew 15:7-9). Just because you may like it does **not** mean God is pleased and will accept it.

8. **TO BAPTIZE PEOPLE TODAY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.** There are only **two recorded cases** of Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament. It tells us that the apostle in Acts 2 and Cornelius and his household in Acts 10 & 11 received Holy Spirit baptism. Holy Spirit baptism was provisional and temporary. It served God's intended purposes. **There is no need for people today to receive it.** By the time (about A.D. 64) that Paul penned Eph. 4:5 **there was one baptism.** Obviously, this is water baptism. **Holy Spirit baptism had ceased!** One can not believe in both water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism and still believe as Paul taught in Eph. 4:5 that there is **"one baptism."** There are several passages that indicate that all Christians receive the Holy Spirit, but **not Holy Spirit baptism.** (See Acts 2:38; 5:32).

We plead with you to obey God and receive His promises. Do not expect to receive things that God has not promised.

(CRS)

KINDNESS

Let us consider some facts that should help all of us who are Christians to become more like Christ would have us be.

1. SOLOMON said: **"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."** (Prov. 18:24).

2. **Gentleness** i.e., **kindness** is listed in Galatians 5:22-23 as a fruit of the Spirit. There is no law against a person being **kind**.

3. PAUL exhorted the saints at Colosse to **"put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies** (i.e., a heart of compassion), **kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering..."** (Col. 3:12-13).

4. PETER urged those of **"like precious faith"** to add **"to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."** (See 2 Peter 1:1-12).

5. In writing to the saints at Ephesus PAUL said: **"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."** (Eph. 4:31-32).

For a reading of the above Scriptures we should be impressed with the need of being kind. Kindness should be a part of our lives. Others should be able to see our kindness.

Are you kind? You ought to be!

(CRS)

THE SUTTON-SHARP DEBATE

A series of public discussions has been scheduled to be conducted in Albertville, Alabama for Septemeber 18, 19, 21 & 22, 1978 at 7:30 each evening. It will be held in the building of the **EAST ALBERTVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**, located on Highway 431 South, in Albertville, about 1/4 mile south of the Arrow Shirt Factory.

Mr. G.T. (Tom) Sharp of Florence, Alabama and **Carrol R. Sutton** of Albertville will be the disputants. Mr. Sharp is a preacher in the United Pentecostal Church. He is an experienced, capable debater.

There will be moderators to keep time and to see that all things are done "decently and in order."

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, September 18th and 19th, **Carrol R. Sutton** will affirm that **"The Scriptures teach that Holy Spirit baptism is not for believers today."** Mr. Sharp will deny this.

On Thursday and Friday evenings, September 21st and 22nd, **Tom Sharp** will affirm that **"The Scriptures teach that all true believers can receive Holy Spirit baptism today."** Carrol R. Sutton will deny this.

Tell others about the debate and make plans to attend if you can.

THE HILL-SUTTON DEBATE has not been re-scheduled yet. We haven't heard from them yet.

Sentence Sermons

Some people preach by the bushel and practice by the pint.

A man is never better than his principles.

God planned to make us creatures of character, not of comfort.

God's promises are always greater than our problems.

What we weave in time we wear in eternity.

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