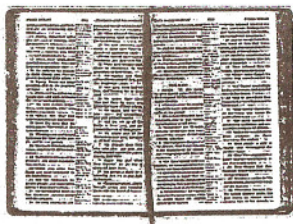


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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FOUR LITTLE WISE THINGS - PROV. 30:24-28

The ants, conies, locusts and spiders are the four little things on earth that Agur said **"are exceeding wise."** If we consider them, we can learn some profitable lessons.

In verse 25 we read: **"The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer."** Please note the following.

(1) They prepare for the future by preparing their meat in the summer. They are industrious and they persevere. (See Prov. 6:6-8).

(2) We should prepare for the future (Amos 4:12; Mt. 25:1-13), be industrious (Heb. 4:11; Rom. 12:11; John 9:4) and persevere (Heb. 10:39; Rev. 2:10).

In verse 26 we read: **"The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks."**

(1) The conies are defenseless, rabbit-type animal that seeks safety in the rocks.

(2) We are defenseless (Jer. 10:23), and should seek safety in the Lord and His name. We

should build our houses on the solid rock. (Prov. 18:10; 29:25; Eph. 1:3; 1 Cor. 3:11).

Verse 27 says: **The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands."**

(1) Locusts are a type of grasshoppers. They have no king but they stick together and work together. They show there is strength in unity!

(2) Under our great King we should certainly stick together and work together! (See Psa. 133:1; John 17:20-22; 1 Cor. 1:10).

We read in verse 28 that **"The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."**

(1) The spider uses what she has and perseveres and gets into kings' houses.

(2) We should take hold (work) with our hands to do God's will. (See Luke 9:62; Phil. 2:12-13; 2 Thess. 3:10; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Cor. 15:58; John 6:27-29).

We should use what we have to do good!

We should persevere as long as we live! (See Gal. 6:7-9; Rev. 2:10).

(CRS)

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ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Mike Pack

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the **Editor**, 4777 US Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

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Editorial...

DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE? (Part 2)

Although the popular idea in the religious world is that it does not matter what one believes, teaches and practices religiously, this principle is not accepted in other walks of life. It is quite obvious from the teaching of the Scriptures that we considered in our study last month that it does indeed make a difference!

We 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? and

IV. HOW THE LOST ARE SAVED? NOTE: We showed from the Scriptures that it does make a difference!

Let us now resume our con-

sideration of the question, DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE:

V. HOW WE WORSHIP GOD? There are many people (in fact the majority) who say that it does not matter how we worship God just as long as we are sincere. However, this idea is directly opposite to what Jesus himself taught.

In John 4:24 Jesus declared that "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." NOTE: According to this passage there are three essentials to true worship. They are (1) the right (or proper) object – God; (2) the right attitude, etc. – in spirit, and, (3) in truth – that is, it must be done according to the teaching of Jesus Christ as set forth in the New Testament! Read and consider Matt. 4:10; 6:24; John 17:17. FURTHER NOTE: When a person teaches for doctrines the commandments of men, his/her worship is in vain! (Read Matt. 15:1-9).

Does God authorize Christians to make music in worship to Him? If so, what kind of music? God authorizes us to make vocal music – that is, to sing! (See Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; Rom. 15:9; Mt. 26:30; Mark 14:26; Heb. 2:12, etc.)

What about playing mechanical instrumental music in worship unto God? It is not authorized in the Word of God! Therefore it cannot be done "in truth"!

We are to observe "the Lord's Supper" on the first day of the week because it is authorized in the Scriptures. (See Mt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 11:20-34; Acts 20:7).

We are taught to give of our

means ("lay by in store") as God has prospered us. This is to be done **"upon the first day of the week"** according to 1 Cor. 16:1-2.

In our *teaching* the Word of God and/or *praying* in or out of our assemblies we show reverence and awe for God. We are authorized to do both. (See Acts 20:7; 5:42; 11:26; 15:35; 20:17-25; 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:19 & Acts 2:42; 6:1-7; 12:5, 12; 1 Cor. 14:13-19; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Peter 3:12).

FURTHER NOTE: *Yes, it really does make a difference!* If you believe that it does not matter *how* we worship God, you have been deceived!

VI. WHAT NAME (OR NAMES) WE WEAR? Many people contend that it makes no difference as to what name (or names) we wear because *"there is nothing in a name."* No doubt, most of you have heard people make this claim. NOTE: This is a "flimsy" contention because it is unscriptural, contrary to facts and irrational. If it is true that "there is nothing in a name", then please consider the following.

(1) A **"name"** is not **"a word constituting the distinctive designation of a person or thing"** as it is defined in Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary.

Do you reject the basic meaning of the word **"name"**? Obviously, many people do.

(2) Names are *not* means of identification as we now use them. We would have no idea what people mean when we hear names spoken by them. NOTE: I could call you by the name of your neighbor and call your neighbor by your name and it would make no difference? Are

you willing to accept this practice? Of course not! No one is. Suppose we called the Baptists, Muslims? Or we called the Methodists, Mormons? Or we called the Pentecostals, "Jehovah's Witnesses"? Or we called the Presbyterians, Catholics, etc.? The result would be mass confusion! All of us can see that such would be the case. So, the idea that *"there is nothing in a name"* is completely false!

(3) When the scribes (referring to Jesus) said: **"He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils"** (Mark 4:22), this would have no practical meaning. QUESTION: If it would have a meaning what would it be? If names have no significance it would not necessarily mean anything.

(4) It would be acceptable to refer to Christ as Satan and to refer to Satan as Christ. If not, why not?

We learn from the Scriptures that *there is something in a name and that it does matter what name (or names) we wear.*

Consider that the Scriptures clearly teach the following.

(1) There is salvation in the name of Jesus Christ and *only* in his name. (Read Acts 4:12 & Phil. 2:9-11 very carefully).

(2) That **"the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."** (Acts 11:26).

(3) Paul endeavored to persuade men to be **"Christians"**; not Baptists, Methodists, Muslims, Pentecostals, Mormons, etc. (See Acts 26:24-29).

(4) We are to be willing to suffer as Christians and glorify God *in this name*. (See 1 Pet. 4:16 - ASV). NOTE: Not the name "Jehovah's Witness", Presbyterian,

Mennonite, Baptist, Catholic, Salvation Army, etc.

(5) That Christians are married to Christ. (See Rom. 7:4). NOTE: Since we are "married to" Christ, do you think we ought to wear the name of some man such as Martin Luther, Alexander Campbell, etc.? Surely not!

(6) The name that the early disciples wore was blasphemed although it was a worthy name. James 2:7 says: "Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"

(7) When Paul wrote an epistle and addressed it "unto Timothy, my own son in the faith" (See 1 Tim. 1:1-2), did the name Timothy mean anything or was the letter intended for James or John Mark or Simon Peter or someone else? NOTE: It is clear that Paul had one particular person in mind when he addressed the letter.

NOTE: Yes, it is obvious from the reading of the Scriptures that it does make a difference as to what name we wear!

FURTHER NOTE: Yes, without question, it does matter what a person believes and practices in religious matters! It certainly matters with God and it should matter with each one of us!

(To be continued) (CRS)

A WARNING

PROVERBS 6:27-28- says: "*Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?*"

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GOSPEL MEETINGS AT East Albertville, Albertville, AL September 21-26, 2008. Regular times on Lord's day. 7pm each week day. Gary Kerr, Preaching. Come! Tell others!

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

Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else.

* * * * *

Smiles and good humor are the seasoning that make everyday living taste better.

* * * * *

In order to see a rainbow or a beautiful sunset, we must always be looking up.

* * * * *

Genius is admired; wealth is envied; power is feared; but character is trusted.

* * * * *

Remember: This world is just a dressing room for the world to come.

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