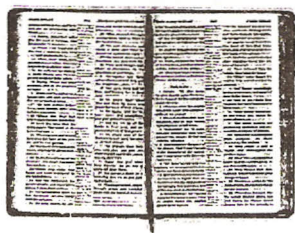


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

SEPTEMBER, 2009

Number 9

SOME THINGS THAT MAN CANNOT PROVE! (CONCL)

As we continue our examination of some things that are often taught or preached that can not be proven by the Scriptures, let us now consider the following.

10. *"Baptism is not essential to salvation from past sins and to receiving eternal life in heaven".*

REPLY:

1. This statement is always assumed and asserted, but it is never proven by the Scriptures! It is taught without any authority whatsoever from God! It is based completely on traditions, likes, dislikes and on the wisdom of men. Read and consider such passages as: Jer. 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9; Psa. 94:11; 1 Cor. 1:18-20, 27-29; 3:20, etc.

2. The passages of Scripture that teach that baptism is essential to salvation from past sins and to receiving eternal life in heaven are numerous. Read and study very carefully the following passages of Scripture.

(a) Mark 16:15-16 says: **"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."** NOTE: This passage very clearly teaches

that salvation is preceded by both **"believeth" and "is baptized"**. If there is no belief and baptism, there is no salvation! Plain enough, isn't it?

(b) In Acts 2:36-38 when lost inquiring Jews were pricked in their heart, they said unto Peter and unto the rest of the apostles, **"Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."**

NOTE: Both **"repent" and "be baptized"** are **"for the remission of sins."** If repentance comes **before remission of sins**, then the **baptism comes before the remission of sins.** NOTE: If there is no repentance and baptism there is no remission of sins! Easily understood, isn't it?

(c) All **"spiritual blessings"** including salvation are **"in Christ"** according to Eph. 1:3. We learn from Rom. 6:3-4 and Gal. 3:27 that we are **"baptized into Christ."** In view of these facts we must conclude that baptism is essential to salvation!

(d) Study carefully 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 22:16; 8:26-39; 16:30-34; 18:8, etc.

(CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Mike Pack

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Gary Chumley

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

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

Second-class postage paid in

Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD

Many people doubt the sufficiency of God while others simply overlook His sufficiency. Let us consider some areas in which we can see, without question the sufficiency of God.

1. GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT! By "the grace of God" we mean "the favor of God."

(a) *It is sufficient to save sinners!* Paul declared: "...by grace ye are saved" and "for by grace ye are saved through faith..." (Eph. 2:5, 8) We learn from Titus 2:11-12 that "the grace of God" brings salvation.

(b) *It is sufficient to justify sinners!* Rom. 3:24 teaches us that we are "justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

© *It is sufficient for us to stand in!* Peter said: "...I have written briefly, exhorting, and

testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand." (1 Pet. 5:12). We learn from Rom. 5:2 that "we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

(d) *The grace of God made Paul what he was and enabled him to labour more abundantly than others.* Read and study 1 Cor. 15:10.

Lest he be exalted above measure, Paul was given "a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet" him. Paul besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from him but the Lord said unto Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:7-9).

(e) In 2 Cor. 9:8 Paul assures the saints that "God is able to make all grace abound; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work." NOTE: Not only is God's grace sufficient to save and justify sinners, but God is able to make all grace abound to enable Christians to be sufficient to do God's will and to abound to every good work.

(f) We learn from 1 Peter 5:10 that God is "the God of all grace."

NOTE: We should never forget or doubt that the grace of God is sufficient!

2. GOD'S LOVE IS SUFFICIENT! The Scriptures are replete with passages that mention the love of God and of Christ. Paul mentions God's "great love wherewith he loved us" is Eph. 2:4.

(a) *The love of God prompted him to send His Son*

into the world and to die for sinners! In John 3:16-17 Jesus said: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

In Romans 5:8 the apostle Paul tells us that "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Also read and carefully study 1 John 4:9-10, 14; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:4; 5:2; 5:25, etc.

(b) *The love of God is sufficient to bring rebuke and chastisement to God's children when they need it!* To the Laodiceans Jesus said: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Rev. 3:19).

Listen carefully to Hebrews 12:5-11- "...My Son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God deal-eth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it

yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

© *God's love is sufficient to cause one who really loves Him to obey His commandments!* 1 John 5:3 says: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."

(d) *God's love is sufficient to cause us to love one another!* 1 John 4:7-8 says: "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Also see 1 John 4:19-21; 5:2; 4:11-12; John 13:34-35, etc.

3. GOD'S SON IS SUFFICIENT! The evidence is abundant and irrefutable that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

(a) While on earth Jesus did many signs, wonders and miracles that are recorded in the New Testament to produce faith in our hearts that He is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life through His name. (See John 5:1-14; 6:1-15; 6:16-21; 9:1-11; 11:17-47; 20:30-31.)

(b) *Jesus, the Son of God, is a sufficient Saviour.* Hebrews 7:25 says: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." In 1 Tim. 1:15 Paul said: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." Jesus said: "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32) and "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was

lost." (Luke 19:10). (Also see Acts 13:22-25; 1 John 4:14; Heb. 5:8-9.)

© *Jesus is a sufficient head of the church!* The apostle Paul declared that God "hath put all things under his (Christ's - ed) feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" and "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." (Eph. 1:22-23 and Col. 2:10). Also read and study Col. 4:15; Eph. 5:23 - 32; Col. 1:18 & Col. 2:19.

(d) *Jesus is a sufficient High Priest!* Hebrews 3:1 says: Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus." The Hebrew writer also said: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of

God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (4:14-15). Also see Heb. 2:17; 5:10; 6:20; 7:26-28; 8:1-6; 9:11-12, 24 & 10:12.

(e) *Jesus is a sufficient example for us to follow!* Peter said: "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps." (1 Peter 2:21).

Jesus said: "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet: ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you ... If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." (John 13:14-17). Also study Phil. 2:5; 1 John 2:6.

Yes, God is sufficient! His grace, His love and His Son!

(To be continued)

(CRS)

SENTENCE SERMONS

A very small person can carry a large grudge!

* * * * *

When you mix and run with "dogs", don't complain when you get fleas!

* * * * *

Most people know how to make a living, but do not know how to make a life.

* * * * *

Life is not too short for courtesy, kindness and forgiveness.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Alberville, AL 35950

Periodical Postage