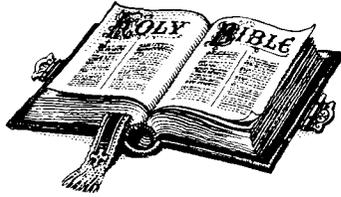


THE INSTRUCTOR



“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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HOW CAN A PERSON SIN?

Many people do not understand how a person can sin. Any time a person disobeys God, he is guilty of sin. But **how** does a person disobey God? Here are some ways that a person can disobey God and thus commit sin.

1. **BY DOING WHAT GOD HAS FORBIDDEN.** You may disobey me without sinning, but if you disobey God, you have sinned! Adam and Eve sinned by doing what God forbade. God said: **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”** (Gen. 2:17). They did what God had forbidden! They ate of the forbidden fruit and hence sinned! Anything that God tells us not to do, He forbids! If we do it, we sin. God forbids swearing. In Matthew 5:34 Jesus said: **“But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God’s throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”** James 5:12 says: **“But above all things, my brethren, swear not, . . .”** If we swear we are guilty of sin because we are doing what God forbids!

2. **BY FAILING TO DO WHAT GOD COMMANDS.** For example, alien sinners are commanded to **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, . . .”** (Acts 16:31), and **“repent, and be baptized . . . for the remission of sins, . . .”** (Acts 2:38). Christians are commanded to **“be ye kind one to another, . . .”** (Eph. 4:32). These are commands of God. If one fails to obey these commands, he sins! God demands and expects obedience to his commands.

3. **BY ADDING TO WHAT GOD HAS SAID.** Under the Old Covenant, God prohibited addition to His law. Through Moses God said to Israel: **“Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”** (Deut. 4:2). In Deut. 12:32 He further said: **“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”** Later we read in Proverbs 30:5-6 these words: **“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.”**

Today, if we transgress (go beyond), if we add to God’s law, we commit sin.

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial - - -

KNOWING GOD

In order for one to be saved eternally, one must know God. Those who "know not God" will be punished forever. Paul tells us that ". . . the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (2 Thess. 1:7-9). Many people claim to know God, but there is no genuine evidence that they really do. Human testimonials, feelings, so-called "experiences" or "encounters" with the Lord do not prove that one really knows God.

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

We can only know that we know God and thus have eternal life by the things which are written in God's Word. John says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." (1 John 5:13). **YOU CAN NOT KNOW GOD UNLESS YOU LEARN WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF GOD!** Neither can you know that you know God unless you learn what is written in the book of God!

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (1 John 4:8). We must love God! We must love the truth! We must love one another! **If we don't, WE DON'T KNOW GOD!**

John also tells us that ". . . hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." (1 John 2:3-4). **UNLESS YOU KEEP GOD'S COMMANDMENTS YOU DO NOT KNOW GOD!**

Do you know God? Human testimonials, your feelings, "experiences" or "encounters" are no evidence that you know him! **If you do not love God, truth and others and if you do not keep God's commandments, YOU DO NOT KNOW GOD!**

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW GOD?

Those who ". . . know not God and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus . . . shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." (See 2 Thess. 1:7-9). Those whom God never knew (because they did not know Him) will be told to "depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (See Matthew 7:21-23). Since those who do not know God will be eternally lost, **YOU SHOULD REALLY WANT TO KNOW GOD! DO YOU? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW GOD?**

Only those who know God have promise and hope of eternal salvation. In view of this fact, **you should really want to know God! Do you?**

No one can "force" you to know God. It is up to you to choose or to reject the knowledge of God. If you really want to know God, you will desire to learn his commandments. You will seek to learn God's will for man generally, and for **you** specifically. The only reliable information that reveals to us God's nature, character and will is in the Scriptures. —(CRS)

HOW CAN A PERSON SIN?

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Such a one does **not** have God. We learn this fact from the statements of John in 2 John 9 where he says: **“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.”** One sins if he adds mechanical instrumental music to the worship or if he adds recreational activities and entertainment projects to the work of the church. As far as music in worship is concerned, **sing is the scope of the command, and sing is the extent of our practice. Since preaching the gospel, edifying the saints and relieving needy saints is the scope of the work of the church, that is to be the extent of our actions.** To add to God’s word is sinful!

4. **BY SUBSTITUTING FOR WHAT GOD HAS SAID.** In Numbers 20:1-12 Moses was told to speak to the rock. Instead, Moses substituted something else for what God had said. Moses **spake to the people** and smote the rock twice with his rod. God had not said, **“speak to the people.”** God had said, **“speak to the rock.”** Moses did **not** obey God’s will in the matter. His act of speaking to the people was an act of “unbelief” and thus it was a sinful act. The Psalmist later tells us that **“it went ill with Moses for their sakes: because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.”** (Psalms 106:32-33). Although his spirit was provoked he was **not** justified in substituting for God’s word by speaking unadvisedly with his lips. It is still true that Moses did **not** **“believe”** God to sanctify him in the eyes of the Israelites. Moses was **not** allowed to enter into the **“promised land”** because of his sin on this occasion.

Now, if we substitute sprinkling for baptism (which is a burial in water and a resurrection therefrom according to Col. 2:12), we are guilty of sin! Or if one

IS IT REALLY TRUE?

Is it really true that God so designed things that man of his own wisdom could not know God? **Yes**, it is true because Paul said: **“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”** (1 Cor. 1:21). Do you really believe it?

Is it really true that man can not direct his own steps? **Yes**, it is true because Jeremiah said: **“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.”** (Jeremiah 10:23) Do you really believe this?

Is it really true that God’s ways and thoughts are much higher than ours? **Yes**, it is true because Isaiah 55:8-9 says: **“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”** Do you really believe this to be so?

Is it really true that man must believe in God in order to please Him? **Yes**, it is true because 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.”** Do you believe this to be true?

— (CRS)

(To be Continued).

substitutes water for the cup (fruit of the vine) in the Lord’s Supper, he sins! (See Matthew 26:26-29). To substitute for God’s will in any matter is sinful!

If you do what God’s word forbids, or fail to do what God commands, or add to God’s word, or substitute something for what God has spoken, YOU ARE GUILTY OF SIN!

— (CRS)

DO YOU HAVE GOD?

We learn from the inspired pen of the disciple John 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.” (2 John 9). A close reading of this passage should impress us with the need of abiding in the doctrine of Christ. One who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son! **Whosoever** (that means **any** or **every** person who) transgresses or goes onward or goes further than what is right or proper (in other words he goes beyond the limits of true doctrine) **DOES NOT HAVE GOD!**

One who does not have God can not please God. One who does not have God is without God. One who does not have God is in sin. Such a person is lost!

He has no hope of being saved eternally! His destiny will be the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. His torment will last forever and ever!

A person who has both the Father and the Son has life. He has been saved from his past sins. He is a child of God. He has been born again. He has access unto all spiritual blessings because he is

(Continued in right column)

in Jesus Christ! He is not condemned as long as he walks not after the flesh but after the Spirit. He has hope of eternal salvation!

Doctrine means “teaching, viz. that which is taught.” The doctrine of Christ is the teaching which has Christ as its author and supporter. Christ received it from the Father. It was revealed by the Holy Spirit to inspired men in the first century who taught it orally and who wrote it down in the Scriptures.

Does doctrine matter? It does if being lost or being saved matters! Is one doctrine as good as another doctrine? It is not if being lost is not as good as being saved!

Are you abiding within the limits of the true doctrine of Jesus Christ? **If not, you do not have God!** — (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Charles G. Maples will be preaching in a series of gospel meeting, at the East Albertville Church of Christ June 6-12, 1983 at 7:30 each evening except on the Lord's Day. We will meet at our regular times on the Lord's Day. Please attend!

— Sentence Sermons —

Even quick thinkers should be “slow to speak.”

* * * * *

You can hold up your chin when you conquer a sin.

* * * * *

A lot of people who condemn Judas for betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver are doing the same thing — for a lot less! Are you?

* * * * *

Sin may be attractive, smooth and sugar-coated but its wages are always bitter!

* * * * *

The surest steps to happiness are the steps that lead toward God.

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