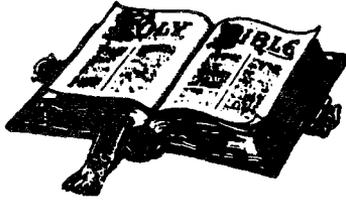


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 34

DECEMBER, 1997

Number 12

---

## TRYING THE SPIRITS

Many religious leaders seem to resent the idea that those who listen and are potential followers of their teachings should *try* or *test* them. They act as if the person is wrong who *questions* and *examines* them and their teachings in view of what the *Scriptures* say. However they may act and react it is obligatory that we follow the teaching of God's Word and *try* them!

In Matthew 7:15-16 Jesus warned His disciples, saying; "Beware of false prophets which come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" NOTE: In view of what *Jesus* said, all of us should be *fruit inspectors!* We should allow the Word of God to be the standard by which we determine what is "*good fruit.*"

In 1 John 4:1 we read: "**Beloved, believe not every spirit, but *try* the spirits whether they are of God:**

**because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** NOTE: We should *try* or *test* "*the spirits*" (whether we think they are good or bad) to determine whether they are "*of God*". In every case our appeal must be to the Word of Christ in these *examinations.*

In addressing the church at Ephesus, the Lord said: "**I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and has found them liars.**" (Rev. 2:2; 2 Cor. 11:13-15). NOTE: *Jesus commended* the saints at Ephesus because they had *tried* some who claimed to be apostles and had found them to be *liars!* We should do likewise.

We must be vigilant in *trying* those who preach and teach *by* the Word of truth! (Cf. John 8:32; 17:17; 12:48; James 1:21; 2:12). "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**" (1 Thess. 5:21). (CRS)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

(U.S.P.S. # 581680)

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

CAROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

Second-class postage paid in Albertville, AL 35950

Christians today should keep the sabbath holy as required of the Israelites under the Old Testament Scriptures. We are going to list the arguments that we've heard Sabbatarians make and then give a reply for your consideration.

1. "GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY AND BLESSED AND SANCTIFIED IT."

## REPLY:

A. According to Gen. 2:2-3 God did rest on the seventh day and "*blessed*" and "*sanctified*" it! However, there is no Scriptural proof that God commanded or authorized anyone to keep the sabbath day holy until after the Israelites were delivered from the bondage of Egypt. The "sabbath" day is first mentioned in Exodus 16:23. A short time later God gave the ten commandments at Mt. Sinai (or Mt. Horeb). (Cf. Exodus 20:1-23; Deuteronomy 5:1-22).

B. The fact that God *blessed* the seventh day does not *prove* that Christians should keep the sabbath today! God *blessed* Adam and Eve (cf. Gen. 1:28; 5:1-2) and Potiphar's house (cf. Gen. 39:5) but that doesn't *prove* anything necessarily about what Christians are to do.

.....C. The fact that God *sanctified* the seventh day is no *proof* that Christians should keep the sabbath! God *sanctified* (hallowed) the tabernacle and all things therein (cf. Exodus 29:44; Lev. 8:10), the firstborn of children of Israel, both man and beast, (cf. Numbers 8:17), a fast (cf. Joel 1:14), and Solomon's temple (cf. 2 Chron. 7:16).

D. We do not learn from Gen. 2:2-3 *when* God *blessed* and *sanctified* the seventh day! Moses (writing 2500 years (probably) *after*

(Continued on page 3)

Editorial---

## MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 7)

The law that required the Israelites to keep the sabbath holy was a law that was provisional and temporary. In our past studies we have clearly shown by the Scriptures that such was the case. That law was never bound on Christians. It was given primarily to a certain people (Israel) for specified reasons. It was to last till it fulfilled its purpose. It was binding under the Levitical priesthood. It would not continue to be in force when a change in the priesthood occurred. (Cf. Hebrews 7:11-19). Jesus came to fulfill the law. No particle of the law would pass from the law "*till*" the law was fulfilled. (Cf. Mt. 5:17-18; Luke 24:44-48).

### ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

Some who teach that Christians should keep the sabbath holy as taught in the Old Testament Scriptures will make the following arguments in an effort to prove that

(Continued from page 2)

the creation simply states the *fact* that God *blessed* and *sanctified* the seventh day without telling us *when* He did so!

E. Gen. 2:2-3 says: "**And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.**" NOTE: The text tells us that God *blessed* and *sanctified* (past tense) the seventh day and it tells us *why* he did, but it does *not* tell us *when* He did so! Sabbatarians *assume* and *assert* without *proof* that Christians should keep the sabbath today!

2. "THE SABBATH WAS OBSERVED BY ADAM".

**REPLY:**

A. An *assumption* pure and simple! No *proof*!

B. Even if it could be proven that Adam observed the sabbath, that would *not prove* that Christians today should observe it! Adam was commanded to *dress* and *keep* the garden of Eden (cf. Gen. 2:15) but this does *not prove* that we must do so!

C. We are not under law to Adam, but we are *under the law to Christ!* (Cf. 1 Cor. 9:21).

3. "ABRAHAM OBSERVED THE SABBATH BECAUSE GEN. 26:5 SAYS: "**Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**"

**REPLY:**

A. The text says absolutely *nothing* about the *sabbath* or the *ten* commandments!

B. God has given different commandments to different people at different times for different reasons. For example, God *commanded* Adam, saying, "...**Thou shalt not eat of it...**"(Gen. 2:17). In Gen. 6:14 Noah was commanded to "**Make thee an ark of gopher wood...**" (along with other commands). Gen. 6:22 says: "**And thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.**" NOTE: These commandments that Noah kept had absolutely nothing to do with the *ten* commandments

C. Here are some of the things that God commanded Abraham to do.

(1) Leave his country and kinsman and go into a land that God would show him. (Cf. Gen. 12:1-5).

(2) Walk through the land of Canaan and observe it. (Cf. Gen. 13:12-17).

(3) Keep the covenant of circumcision. (Cf. Gen. 17:9-14).

(4) Hearken unto Sarah and cast out the bondwoman (Hagar) and her son. (Gen. 21:9-12).

(5) Offer Isaac for a burnt offering. (Cf. Gen.22:1-2).

NOTE: Abraham was obeying God's voice and keeping God's commandments when he did what God told him to do. It was *not* necessary for him to keep the sabbath to be obeying the commandments of God since there is no proof that God ever commanded him to keep it!

4. "THE SABBATH IS SPOKEN OF AS THE *HOLY* SABBATH."

**REPLY:**

(1) Yes, Nehemiah 9:13-14 and

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Exo. 16:23 mentions "*holy sabbath*". However, this does *not* prove that Christians should keep the sabbath today.

(2) We learn from Exo. 28:2 that Moses was to "...**make *holy garments for Aaron...***"

(3) The Israelites were to have "**an *holy anointing oil***" and a perfume that was "**pure and *holy***". (Cf. Exo. 30:24, 34-37).

(4) The tabernacle and the vessels therein were "*holy*". (Cf. Exo. 40:9; 1 Kings 8:4).QUESTION: Must Christians have *holy garments, anointing oil, perfume, a tabernacle and the vessels as the Israelites were required to do? Surely not*

(5) The firstling of a cow, a sheep or a goat could not be redeemed because it was *holy* according to Numbers 18:17.

In view of the above information we must conclude that the fact that the sabbath was spoken of as *holy* does *not* prove that Christians should keep it holy!

5. "THE SABBATH IS A UNIVERSAL DAY OF WORSHIP FOR ALL MANKIND."

**REPLY:**

(1) A pure *assumption!*

(2) As pointed out in previous studies, the command to *keep the sabbath day holy* was given to the *Israelites*, and *not* to all mankind!

(3) Please note that Moses was speaking to "*all Israel*" (*not* to *all* mankind) when he gave the sabbath command according to Deut. 5:1-22. *That settles it!*

(4) *There is absolutely no Scriptural proof that God ever intended that the sabbath law be universal in application!*

*(To be continued)*

---

## SENTENCE SERMONS

As Christians we must love the lovable and the unlovable.

\* \* \* \* \*

If Christ cannot go with us, we should not go.

\* \* \* \* \*

The ladder of true success has no rounds of sinful pleasure in it.

\* \* \* \* \*

We cannot reap the harvest unless we sow the seed.

\* \* \* \* \*

We must strive without strife; we must contend without malicious contention.

---

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Second Class Postage

4777 U.S. Highway 431

Albertville, AL 35950