

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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I SIN, YOU SIN, WE ALL SIN, THEREFORE

No one desires the feelings and consequences of guilt. It is unusual for the guilty to take some action to gain release in his guilt. Judas was borne down with guilt, having betrayed Christ, and went out and hanged himself (Matthew 27:5). The younger son who went away and wasted his life, came to himself (Luke 15:17) and resolved to overcome his guilt. He thus arose, went to his father and confessed his sin. (Luke 15:18).

The person who is guilty of sin has either of two courses he may choose to pursue. First, he may admit his guilt and turn from the sin by asking for forgiveness. This is the right course to pursue and the way authorized by God (James 5:20). This is the course Simon chose after committing sin (Acts 8:22). The murderers of Christ were told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). God has provided the avenue of escape from the guilt of sin. [Editor's note: God's law of pardon for His children must be met in order for one to receive forgiveness. (See 1 John 1:6-10, James 5:16; James 5:19-20; Acts 8:22). Those who are **not** God's children must meet God's law of pardon for them. (See Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10; 9-10; Gal. 3:26-27.)

Second, one may choose the charter by Satan. Unfortunately this is the

course so often chosen. Having committed sin, one may seek to tone down the wrong done by saying, "I sinned, but so have you and everyone else." This is to suggest that since all have at some time sinned, no one has any right to point out another's error. Samuel laid before Saul his sin but Saul sought to lay the blame upon the people (1 Sam. 15:21). Saul's effort to escape guilt was to make others equally as guilty as himself.

It is terrible to be guilty of sin. The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). It only aggravates and compounds the problem when one seeks to justify his sin by saying others are guilty too. This is going the wrong direction and is not the course of repentance.

Instead of seeking to justify oneself in sin, instead of looking at others who are guilty, and instead of saying others are as guilty as I, we need to realize the wage and sentence all are under who are in sin. God commanded, "**Ye who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. . .**" (Galatians 6:1). "**He who converteth a sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death**" (James 5:20). Let us never feel that one seeking to help us turn from sin is accusing nor throwing something at us. — Leo B. Plyler in LIGHT

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Editorial . . .

SOME THINGS WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(NO. 3)

In our first two studies we pointed out our **responsibilities to remember** certain things and to **put others in remembrance** of them.

In our first study we showed that the Scriptures teach that **WE SHOULD REMEMBER OUR CREATOR**. The heavens, earth, man and "all things" were created by God. Those who deny God's existence are **without excuse** because God's eternal power and Godhead can be seen by the things created by God.

Our second study discussed the **Word of God** and the fact that **WE SHOULD REMEMBER IT**. In remembering God's Word we showed from the Scriptures that (1) **IT IS INSPIRED**, and (2) **IT IS POWERFUL**, and (3) **WE MUST OBEY IT**. In discussing the **Power** of God's Word we showed that **it is able to give light, to give understanding, produce faith, sanctify, cleanse, build up, save and to judge us**. It was also pointed out that **one must OBEY God's Word from the heart in order to be saved**.

As our study continues let us consider another thing we should remember.

III. WE SHOULD REMEMBER LOT'S WIFE. In Luke 17:32 Jesus

admonished His disciples to "**Remember Lot's wife.**" In Genesis 19:12-26 we have an inspired record of the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven and the deliverance of Lot (a righteous man) therefrom. The inspired record also informs us: "**But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**" (verse 26). As we remember Lot's wife and reflect upon her there are a number of good lessons we can learn. Here are some of them.

1. **GOD'S REQUIREMENTS MAY SEEM FOOLISH TO US BUT WE MUST MEET THEM ANYWAY!** Although it **may** (the text does not say) have seemed foolish to Lot's wife to "**look not behind thee**", obviously it was **God's will** and He expected compliance to it.

Today some (or all) of God's requirements **may** seem foolish, but God expects and demands compliance to them.

The Lord has commanded **baptism for the remission of sins**, (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 10:48; Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27). Please do not think you can despise and/or disregard His command and still be accepted by Him.

God has enjoined the assembling together of Christians and the eating of the Lord's supper by them, (See Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 11:23-34). The bread is to be broken upon the first day of the week, (See Acts 20:7). To ignore this is to ignore a requirement of the Lord.

In Matthew 5:34-37 Jesus very plainly prohibited taking oaths. He said: ". . . Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne; Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be Yea, yea;

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SOME THINGS WE SHOULD REMEMBER

(Continued from page 2)

Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil." To swear is to violate a simple command of the Lord.

The Lord allows **only one** reason for a person to put away his wife and marry another **without** committing adultery according to Matthew 19:9. **Fornication is that one reason.** To show disrespect for this truth by "rationalizing", ignoring or openly denying it is to show disrespect for God Himself.

The apostle Paul said: **"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonored his head . . . For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man."** (1 Cor. 11:4-9). The requirement for a man to **uncover** his head while **"praying or prophesying"** may seem foolish to many but God hath spoken. To set this aside is to set aside what inspiration has revealed.

We must **not** reject or ignore **God's will in any matter** although it may seem foolish to us. Let us **"Remember Lot's wife."**

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE THING! As far as we can determine Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt although she did **only one thing** that God had prohibited. **"Look not behind thee"** was violated when she **"looked back from behind him"** She became a pillar of salt! That **one thing** may have seemed very small to her. As we reflect on Lot's wife **we should remember the importance of one thing.**

One thing kept Moses from leading the Israelites into the promised land. **Moses did not believe God on one occasion** to do what God told him. He was told to take a rod and gather the assembly together and **"speak ye**

unto the rock", but instead of **speaking to the rock** Moses spake **to the people** and smote the rock with his rod. In so doing Moses **"spake unadvisedly with his lips."** (See Numbers 20:1-12; Psalms 106:32-33). When God said speak unto the rock He did **not** mean to speak to the people!

Uzzah did **one thing** that cost him his life. As the ark of God was being moved on a cart pulled by oxen Uzzah **"put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled."** God's anger was kindled against Uzzah and He smote him **"because he put his hand to the ark."** and Uzzah died. (See 1 Chron. 13:9-10; 2 Sam. 6:6-7). Also see Numbers 5:15. NOTE: The fact that Uzzah may have "meant well", did not justify his actions.

One thing kept the rich young ruler from being "perfect" and having "treasure in heaven." He was **not** willing to go and sell what he had and give to the poor and go and take up his cross and follow Jesus. (See Mark 10:17-27). As we **remember Lot's wife** let us remember the **importance of one thing.** James tells us that **" . . . whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."** (2:10). NOTE: We must respect ALL of God's requirements! If we can **disobey one** with God's approval, would someone be kind enough to tell us **which one?**

3. GOD REQUIRES STRICT OBEDIENCE! As we consider Lot's wife we should remember that God requires strict obedience. Remember God said: **" . . . look not behind thee . . ."**, but Lot's wife **"looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt."** (Gen. 19:17, 26). Also consider Moses (Num. 20:1-12), Uzzah (1 Chron. 13:9-10; 2 Sam. 6:6-7), and the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-27).

A study of Titus 2:11-12; Luke 9:23; Mt. 7:21; Rev. 22:14; James 1:22-25 and James 2:10-12 should convince every sincere person that **God requires strict obedience!** It is for our good that we **"Remember Lot's wife."**

(CRS)

(To be continued)

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* * * * *

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* * * * *

A small leak will sink a great ship.

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