

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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"THOUGH MANY, TO US, THERE IS BUT ONE"

Paul wrote: "...there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." (1 Cor. 8:5-6)

Paul also wrote: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Eph. 4:4-6).

In view of the above inspired writings we must accept the fact that there are "gods many, and lords many" in the sense that there are many who are *called* gods and lords. Although there are many gods and lords in the sense that there are many

false gods and lords, in truth there is only *one true God* (the Father) and only *one true Lord* (Jesus Christ)!

With the above principle in mind let us consider the fact that there are *many* of a number of things (so-called by men) but to us who know and believe the truth, *there is in truth but one* of each of these things. Here are some of them.

1. Though there be *many* spirits, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one true Holy Spirit!* (Cf. Eph. 4:4; Mt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 5:32).

2. Though there be *many* faiths, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one true faith!* (Cf. Eph. 4:5; Acts 6:7; Jude 3; Rom. 1:5).

3. Though there be *many* baptisms, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one true baptism!* (Cf. Eph. 4:5; Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:38).

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EDITORIAL---

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 6)

Among the facts we can learn from a reading and study of Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 8:6-13 are the following:

1. There are *two* covenants under consideration. They are the *first covenant* and the *second covenant*.

2. The *first covenant* is spoken of as being "*old*" and the *second covenant* is spoken of as being "*new*".

3. The *new* covenant is not according to the *first* or *old* covenant!

4. The *first covenant* was *not* faultless! Heb. 8:7 says: "**For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**" NOTE: The fact that the Israelites broke that covenant does *not* prove that the *first* covenant was *not* faulty!

5. The fact that God said "**a new covenant**" indicates that "**He has made the first obsolete.**" (See Heb. 8:13, NKJV).

6. Jesus Christ is the mediator of the *second* (or *new*) *covenant*!

7. The *new* (or *second*) is "**a better covenant, which was established upon**

better promises"!

8. In making a **new** covenant the Lord made the first covenant **old** and it would **vanish away**!

Many people fail to properly divide the Word of God because they fail to recognize the *distinctions* between the *two* covenants.

Let us now consider additional facts about the *two* covenants.

9. The first covenant referred to as "*the law*" in a number of passages "*was given by Moses*" but the second covenant (included in the expression, "*truth and grace*" in John 1:17) "*came by Jesus Christ*"! (Cf. Gal. 6:2).

10. The *first covenant* was given at Mt. Sinai, but the *second covenant* went forth from Jerusalem! (Cf. Neh. 9:13-14; Exodus 19 & 20; Isaiah 2:2-4; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8).

11. The *first covenant* was given to the *Israelites*, but the *second* (also referred to as the *gospel*) was given to *all*, to Gentiles as well as to Israelites! (Cf. Deut. 5:1-3; Mark 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-20; Eph. 2:11-16).

12. The *first covenant* contained the *ten commandments* (Exo. 34:28), *sacrifices* (cf. Deut. 12:6-11), *burnt offerings* (cf. Exo. 29:16-18), *incense* (cf. Exo. 30:1, 7-8; Luke 1:8-9), etc. In the *second* (or *new*) *covenant* we learn of Christ's *sacrificial death* on the cross to atone for the sins of the world, His burial and *resurrection* (cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4), the *church* that He built (cf. Mt. 16:18; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-25), *how to be saved* from past sins (cf. Luke 24:47; Rom. 10:9-10; Mark 16:15-16; Eph. 2:8-9), *how to worship* and *serve* God (cf. John 4:24; Heb. 12:28), *how to live* (cf. Titus 2:11-12), etc.

13. The *first covenant* was *dedicated* (or *inaugurated*) with *animal blood* (cf. Exo. 24:3-8), but the *second covenant* required the *blood of Christ* before it could be put into force (cf. Heb. 9:11-26; Mt. 26:28).

14. Under the *first covenant* there was a yearly remembrance of sins (cf. Heb. 10:1-4), but under the *second covenant* the Lord

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said, **"And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more"** (Heb. 10:16-17).

15. The *first covenant* was *faulty* (cf. Heb. 8:7), but the *second covenant* is *perfect* (cf. Heb. 7:19; James 1:25).

16. The *first covenant* (referred to as "*the law*") was to be in force until "*the seed*" (Christ) came (cf. Gal. 3:19-29), but the *second covenant* (the words of Christ as contained in the *gospel*) was to last *till* the end of the world (cf. Mt. 28:18-20; Mt. 24:35; John 12:48).

17. The *first covenant* was *taken away* that the *second* might be *established*! The Hebrew writer declared that **"He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second"**. (10:9-10; cf. 9:16-17). NOTE: Obviously, *both* covenants could *not* be in force simultaneously. One would be in force at a time. The *first* was *taken away* that the *second* could be *established*. Since the *second* has been *established* it is obvious that the *first* has been *taken away*! *Simple*!

18. A *change* of the *priesthood* necessitated a *change* also of the *law*! The Hebrew writer declared: **"For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law."** (7:12). Under the *first covenant* only those who were descendants of Levi could serve as priests. In fact, reference is made in Heb. 7:11 to the "*Levitical*" priesthood. It was under that priesthood that the people received the law (the *first covenant*). However, Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi, but of the tribe of Judah. Jesus could not have become priest under the Levitical priesthood, but He did become priest! He became priest after the order of Melchisedec. Under the *first covenant* He could not have become a priest! This change of priesthood necessitated also a change of the law! Jesus still serves as our Priest. He not only serves as our Priest, but He serves

as our High Priest! There is no doubt about it. We are not under the first (i.e., old) covenant, but we are under the second (i.e., new) covenant! (Cf. Heb. 7:11-28).

19. The Israelites are *dead* to the *first covenant* (the law that said "*thou shalt not covet*") that they might be *married* to Christ under the *second* (new) covenant! In Romans 7:4 Paul said: **"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."** NOTE: If we are not dead to that law then we *could not* be and thus we *are not* married unto Christ! We learn from verse 6 that Paul said, **"But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead where we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."** NOTE: The law *to* which we are dead is the same law *from* which we have been *delivered*! Plain, isn't it?

20. Under the *first covenant* the Gentiles were *dead* in sins *without* God and Christ! (Cf. Eph. 2:1-12). Under the *second covenant* the Gentiles can be *quicken*ed and made *alive*. They can have *both* God and Christ! (Cf. Eph. 2:1-12; 2 John 9). Under the *first covenant* the Gentiles were *afar off*, *aliens*, *strangers* and *foreigners* and *without hope*. However, under the *second covenant* the Gentiles could be made *nigh*, *fellowcitizens* with the saints and have *hope*! (Cf. Eph. 2:12-19; Romans 15:13).

21. We *cannot* be justified by the works of the *law* (first covenant), but we can be justified by "*the faith of Jesus Christ*" (the *second* or *new covenant*)! (Cf. Gal 2:16).

22. We fall from grace if we try to be *justified by the law* (first covenant). We are *justified by "the faith"* (second covenant)! We are "*under law to Christ*"! (Cf. Gal. 5:4; Gal. 3:23-27; 1 Cor. 9:21). (To be continued)

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4. Though there be *many* bodies, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one* true body! (Cf. Eph. 4:4; 1Cor. 12:20). The *one* body is the church! Paul said: "**And he is the head of the body, the church...**" (Col. 1:18), and "**...the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**" (Eph. 1:22-23). Jesus Christ is the *builder* of the church! (Cf. Mt. 16:18). He is the *foundation* of the church! (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:11). We learn from Acts 20:28 that Jesus purchased the church with His own blood! (Also see Eph. 5:25; Titus 2:14). Christ is also *the Saviour* of the body, which is the church! (Cf. Eph. 5:23). The saved ones are *added*

to the church! (Cf. Acts 2:47).

5. Though there be *many* mediators, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one* true mediator! (Cf. 1 Tim. 2:5).

6. Though there be *many* gospels, yet to us who know and believe the truth, there is but *one* true gospel! The gospel is God's power to save us! (Cf. Rom.1:16). It must be *believed* and *obeyed* in order save us! Cf. Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 4:17; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rom. 10:16). Paul said: "**...another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**" (Cf. Gal. 1:6-9).

Please accept the *true "ones"!*

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

It is more important to count our blessings than it is to counts our calories.

Few burdens are heavy when everybody lifts.

The distance between some people's ears is one block.

Once time is lost, it cannot be found.

The poorest can give as much as the richest if he will give all he can.

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