

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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"THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING"

We find the expression, "*This is a faithful saying*" or its equivalent used by the apostle Paul several times in the New Testament Scriptures. *Faithful* sayings would be *true* sayings. Some sayings are not *faithful*. Let us consider some *faithful sayings*.

I. 1 TIM. 1:15 says, "THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING, AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION, THAT CHRIST JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD TO SAVE SINNERS..." We learn from a number of passages such as Luke 19:10; 5:32 and John 3:16-18 that Jesus came to save sinners. Although this is certainly a true saying it is *absolutely essential that sinners must obey Christ is order to be saved!* (Read Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9; Rev. 22:14; James 2:24).

II. 1 TIM. 3:1 SAYS, "THIS IS A TRUE SAYING, IF A MAN DESIRE THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP, HE DESIRETH A GOOD WORK." It is God's plan that there be a plurality of *bishops* (i.e., elders, shepherds, pas-tors) to feed and oversee along with deacons to be special servants in each local church. (Read Acts 14:23; 20:17; Phil. 1:1;

Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

III. 1 TIM. 4:8-10 says, "...THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING AND WORTHY OF ALL ACCEPTATION. FOR BEFORE WE BOTH LABOUR AND SUFFER REPROACH, BECAUSE WE TRUST IN THE LIVING GOD,..." Indeed we should put God first in our lives and we do labour and suffer reproach because we trust in the living God! (Read Mt. 6:33; Luke 9:23; 14:33; 1 Cor. 15:58; Titus 2:14; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:13-16 & Mt. 5:11-12).

IV. 2 TIM. 2:11-13 says, "IT IS A FAITHFUL SAYING: FOR IF WE BE DEAD WITH HIM, WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM: IF WE SUFFER, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM: IF WE DENY HIM, HE ALSO WILL DENY US: IF WE BELIEVE NOT, YET HE ABIDETH FAITHFUL: HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF." We must die to sin and must not deny God by our actions. (See Rom. 6:1-18; Titus 1:16). *Christ abides faithful?*

V. READ TITUS 3:5-8: "...THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING..." (Also read Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 10:35; Tit. 3:1). *Accept these faithful sayings!* (CRS).

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Editorial...

WRONG IS ALWAYS WRONG? (No. 9)

In our previous studies we showed by the Scriptures that *Wrong Is Always Wrong*. We pointed out the following. I. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH MOST PEOPLE ACCEPT IT! II. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET CAUGHT! III. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH IT MAY GIVE A PERSON PLEASURE! IV. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH A PERSON DOES IT FOR SOMEONE ELSE! V. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH A PERSON THINKS IT IS RIGHT. VI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS DONE IN ANGER. VII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN THOUGH IT IS DONE TO PLEASE OTHERS. VIII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE. IX. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF OTHERS ARE DOING WORSE. X. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF NO ONE CONDEMNES IT. XI. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH ONE IS PERSECUTED FOR CONDEMNING AND OPPOSING IT. XII. WRONG IS WRONG ALTHOUGH IT IS AUTHORIZED (or in some cases, even commanded) BY CIVIL RULERS. XIII. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE FOR A "GOOD" CAUSE, and,

XIV. WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF A POLITICAL LEADER OR A RELIGIOUS LEADER DOES IT! Let us continue our study.

XV. **WRONG IS WRONG EVEN IF IT IS DONE IN IGNORANCE!** Many people try to justify sin (wrong, evil) by saying that it was done in ignorance. A person may do wrong and then say, "I didn't know any better. I didn't know it was wrong", etc. Knowledge of the fact that a thing is wrong (sinful) is not essential in order for that thing to be wrong. *A thing is wrong (sinful) if it violates God's law!* I John 3:4 says: **"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."** Whether or not a person has knowledge of the law of God is not the standard by which we can determine what is right or wrong. *The law is the standard!*

Under the law of Moses God expected His people to obey His law. In Deuteronomy 4:2 they were told: **"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you"** and in 12:32, **"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."** (Also read Isaiah 8:20; Joshua 1:7-8; Nehemiah 8:1-5, 8; Ezra 7:10). NOTE: Although God demanded of His people obedience to His commandments there were times when they disobeyed His law. Sometimes God's people sinned "through ignorance". When a person sinned "through ignorance" he was to **"bring for his trespass unto the Lord a ram..."** and the priest was to make atonement for him. (See Lev. 5:14-16). We read the following in Lev. 5:17-19: **"And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the Lord; though he wist it not, yet is he**

guilty, and shall bear his iniquity. And he shall bring a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest: and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his ignorance wherein he erred and wist it not, and it shall be forgiven him. It is a trespass offering: he hath certainly trespassed against the Lord.” NOTE: The expression, “*wist it not*” suggests not *knowing* or *unaware of*. In other words, it suggests *ignorant of*. In fact, the word *ignorance* is also used in the text. FURTHER note: Although a person sinned through ignorance he was guilty of sin and would bear his iniquity. His sin was not overlooked because of his ignorance. His sin (wrong) was sin (wrong) because he violated God’s law!

Through the prophet Hosea, God said, “**My people are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge...**” (Hosea 4:6). In addressing some Sadducees in Matthew 22:29, Jesus said: “**Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God.**” NOTE: Ignorance did not make wrong right even when God’s people sinned back under the law of Moses.

Under our civil laws today the fact that we may be ignorant of what the law says does not remove personal responsibility for our actions. Pleading ignorance of the law does not remove the guilt of violating that law. Since we are to be subject to and obey civil laws (as taught in Romans 13:1-7 and Titus 3:1) it is our responsibility to *learn* what the civil laws are. Yes, we do wrong when we violate civil laws although we do so through ignorance. NOTE: Of course, when there is a conflict between civil law and God’s law “**we must obey God rather than man.**” (See Acts 5:29).

We are told in James 2:12 to “**So speak ye, and so do, as they that**

shall be judged by the law of liberty.” Thus we are responsible to talk and do as the law of liberty teaches. To be blessed in our deeds we must look into, do and continue in the things contained in “**the perfect law of liberty**”. (See James 1:25).

Since we are to do the things contained in the law of Christ it is imperative that we learn those things.

Suppose a man (who is ignorant of what Jesus taught in *Matthew 19:9* and *5:31-32*) marries a woman who has been “*put away*” by her husband, does that man *commit adultery like Jesus said* or is he *innocent* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a man (who is ignorant of what Jesus taught in *Matthew 19:9* and *5:32*) is “*put away*” (i.e., *divorced*) by his wife marries another, does he *commit adultery like Jesus said* or is he *innocent* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *drinking intoxicants* (not medically) is sinful (as taught in such passages as Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Peter 4:3; Prov. 20:1), drinks alcoholic beverages, does he *sin* or is he *innocent* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *division* among God’s people is sinful (as taught in such passages as Gal. 5:19-21; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 1:10), etc.) causes division, does he *sin in so doing* or is he *guiltless* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *swearing* is sinful (as taught in Matthew 5:33-37 & James 5:12) swears, is he guilty of sin or is he guiltless because of the ignorance?

Suppose a woman who is ignorant of *the teaching of 1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Cor. 14:34-35; 1 Tim. 2:11-12* and *2 John 9*

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page) takes the leadership in the public assembly of a church and preaches, does she sin in so doing or is she innocent and thus *guiltless* because of her ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *taking vengeance* is wrong (as taught in Romans 12:19-21) *takes vengeance*, does he sin in so doing or is he *guiltless* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *having fellowship with unrighteousness* is sinful (as taught in 2 Cor. 6:14-17) *has fellowship with unrighteousness*, is he *guilty* of sin or is he *guiltless* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person who is ignorant of the fact that *witchcraft* is a work of the flesh and thus sinful (as taught in Gal. 5:19-21) either *practices* or *encourages the practice of witchcraft*, is that person *guilty* of sin or is he *guiltless* because of his ignorance?

Suppose a person is ignorant of the fact that *covetousness* is idolatry (as taught in Col. 3:5) *is covetous*, is that person *guilty* of idolatry or is he *guiltless* because of his ignorance?

As pointed out in the first paragraph of this article, *when we violate God's law we sin!* There are no qualifications given such as "if we violate the law knowingly" or "if we violate the law in open rebellion", etc. we sin. John tells us that "**sin is the transgression of the law.**"

Without question, *wrong is wrong even if the sin is done in ignorance!* NOTE: Someone may try to justify sins committed in ignorance by asking, "*Can we repent of sins of which we are ignorant?*" You may inform them that the truth is that *we can learn what God's law teaches us to do!* QUESTION: Is there any sin that one *could not learn a-bout?* If so, what is it?

Do you try to justify wrong by saying, "*I did it in ignorance*"? Remember that *wrong is always wrong regardless of the circumstances!* (CRS)

SENTENCE SERMONS

We should never miss a good chance to say the right thing and shut up.

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The best throw with the dice is to throw them away.

* * * * *

Those who confess Christ but do not follow Him serve Satan.

* * * * *

A reputation once broken may possibly be repaired, but the world will always keep an eye on the spot where the crack was.

* * * * *

A Christian is free *from* sin but not free *to* sin.

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