

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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TYPES OF DISOBEDIENCE

Disobedience is just another word for sin. John said, "Sin is transgression of the law." (1 John 3:4). Any thought, word, or act that violates the will of God is sin, for sin is disobedience to God's will. Disobedience is the only condition that will bring the wrath of God upon the soul of man. Paul said, "Let no man deceive you with vain words, for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." (Eph. 5:6). He states, furthermore, that those who do not obey "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord." (2 Thess. 1:9). It is commonly thought that the only way to disobey is to openly commit a deed that God has forbidden. The truth is, there are many ways of disobeying God. Some of these we shall now notice.

DOING WHAT GOD HAS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN

It was necessary for God to name some things that are not good for man to do. To these things He applies the "Thou Shalt not." A certain fruit of the garden was not good for man, hence God

said, "Thou shalt not eat of it." (Gen. 2:17). Physical pain, suffering, and death have come upon the race simply because our first parents disregarded the divine prohibition. The New Testament is filled with divine prohibitions. Christians must, "Love not the world." (1 John 2:15). They are commanded to "Walk not after the flesh." (Romans 8:4). If we are Christians, we must "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together." (Hebrews 10:25).

NOT DOING WHAT HE POSITIVELY COMMANDED

Man's whole duty is not revealed by the Scriptures that prohibit certain things, otherwise a mummy would be a good servant. God has designated some things that must be done. He commanded King Saul to slay all the Amalekites. The instructions were, "Utterly destroy all they have, and spare them not." Saul "spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen . . . everything that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly."

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Editorial

"The Wiles of the Devil"

(NO. 6)

Unless we are **sober** and constantly on guard against "the WILES of the Devil", we will be devoured. We must "**give diligence**" to make our calling and election sure.

In our past studies we have shown that Satan uses WILES such as WORLDLY WISDOM, THE LOVE OF MONEY, FALSE DOCTRINES, LYING, FLATTERY, IGNORANCE, HYPOCRISY AND PRIDE in an effort to deceive and weaken us. Your attention is now called to another "**wile of the Devil.**"

MURMURING. **Murmuring** involves "**secret displeasure, not openly avowed**" according to THAYER'S LEXICON, page 120. **Mr. Thayer** suggests that "**one who discontentedly complains**" is a "**murmurer.**" Sometimes the idea of "**indignant displeasure**" and thus "**indignant complaining**" is involved. The **grumbling** is usually more private than public.

The Israelites of old were guilty of this sin of **murmuring**. God was sorely displeased with them and cursed them because of the sin. Their carcasses fell in the wilderness and they were not allow-

ed to enter into the promised land. Their children were allowed to enter the land of Canaan after wandering forty years in the wilderness. All of this was brought on them because of their **murmuring**. (See Numbers 14).

The sin of **murmuring** was prevalent during the personal ministry of Christ on earth. John 7:12 says "**there was much murmuring among the people concerning him.**" He told some Jews who "**murmured at him**" to "**murmur not among yourselves.**" (See John 6:38-43). Some of the "**scribes and Pharisees murmurer against his disciples.**" (See Luke 5:29-32; Luke 15:1-2). On one occasion even some of the disciples of Christ "**murmured**" at his teaching that he is the living bread and that one must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have life. (See John 6:47-68). In Acts 6:1-6 we are told that "**there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.**"

Murmuring is characteristic of many in our day. Some people who are guilty of this sin may not be fully aware of the danger involved in such. It is a device of Satan to discourage a person from doing good deeds, (see Mark 14:3-9) and to encourage a person not to accept true teaching. (Cf. John 6:38-68). A person who constantly discontentedly complains against Christians, good things and true teaching does not have the proper attitude toward God and spiritual things. He has not reached spiritual maturity as a child of God. He does not have "**the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,**" keeping his heart and mind through Christ Jesus. (See Phil. 4:4-8). He has heart trouble. He doesn't think on the proper things.

Murmuring can disrupt the peace and harmony in the home, in the community and in the nation as well as in the church. Trouble arises where peace once prevailed and division raises its ugly head and crowds out harmony and unity. This pleases Satan. Souls that are precious lose interest in the right way because they are wearied with constant complaining and grumbling, and Satan is pleased.

Paul exhorts Christians to "**do all**

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TYPES OF DISOBEDIENCE

God's disapproval of Saul's conduct was shown by the words of the prophet, "Because thou hast rejected the Lord, He hath also rejected thee from being king." (1 Samuel 15:3, 9, 23). God commanded what was good. Saul sinned by not doing what was commanded. James said, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17). In the gospel, God said to the sinner, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38). Some, like Saul of old, refuse God's simple command. Christians are commanded to assemble, commune, teach, sing, pray and give, but some refuse to obey.

**ADDING TO THE LORD'S
COMMANDMENTS**

When we add to God's commandments, we discredit His wisdom and power, and trust in our own fickle judgment. This displeases our Maker. To Israel He said, "Ye shall not add unto the words which I command you." (Deut. 4:2). "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." (Prov. 30:6). What the Holy Spirit said regarding Revelation is true of the entire Bible. Read it, "If any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book." (Rev. 22:18). God has named every act of worship, and these things are found in the New Testament. Might add mechanical music, bead counting, Christmas pageantry, and Easter celebration: but that would not mean that these things are accented by the Lord. Christ said, "In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthews 15:9).

**SUBTRACTING FROM HIS
COMMANDMENTS**

The Father has not said too much, hence nothing is to be eliminated. Moses said, "Neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of Jehovah our God which I commanded you." (Deut. 4:2). The apostle John said,

(Continued in right column)

"If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the Holy City." (Rev. 22:19). The weekly observance of the Lord's Supper is one of His requirements. (Acts 20:7). We might meet on Lord's Day, observe all other parts of the worship, but leave off the Supper. But why subtract it? Did not the same Lord that commanded prayer, command the communion? Would it be right to eliminate the prayers, and songs? If we believe that God is wise and capable of arranging a worship that suits Him, why not do everything according to His instructions?

**SUBSTITUTING FOR WHAT
HE COMMANDED**

In the old dispensation God commanded animal sacrifice in worship. Cain substituted a vegetable offering, and it was condemned. (Gen. 4). In burning an offering the fire was to be taken from the altar of God. Note what happened to those who substituted: "Nadab and Abihu . . . offered strange fire before the Lord which he commanded them not, and there went out fire from the Lord and devoured them." (Lev. 10: 1-2). Certainly, God did not say, "Ye shall not use this particular fire." He merely told them what to use, and that command excluded everything else. We might substitute a human organization for His church, a man-made creed for the gospel; and wear a human name rather than the one divinely given. But who will say that such would please the heavenly Father? We might even put the mourner's bench in the place of gospel obedience, or sprinkling in the place of baptism; but God would not be honored.

To please God, we must abstain from what is forbidden, do all that is positively commanded, without addition, subtraction or substitution.

.....
■ PROVERBS 12:15 SAYS: "The
■ way of a fool is right in his own eyes:
■ but he that hearkeneth unto counsel
■ is wise."
■
■
.....

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things without murmurings and disputings" that we "may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom we "shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life," (Phil. 2:14-16). He also says: "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." (1 Cor. 10:10). It is obvious from Paul's statements that one cannot be blameless and harmless if he engages in "murmurings and disputings."

Let us not allow Satan to blind our eyes to the sin of MURMURING and its eternal consequences. Let us not be ignorant of Satan's devices.

(CRS)

(To be continued)

Hill-Sutton Debate

The reluctance of the West Hobbs St. Church in Athens to reset the date for the Hill-Sutton Debate has prompted a number of people to predict that the Hobbs St. brethren will never keep the agreement to have the debate! Do you agree with the prediction?

Sentence Sermons

You don't need references in order to borrow trouble.

To take the wind out of an angry man's sails, stay calm.

Share your faith with others, but keep your doubts to yourself.

The calibre and color of a lie do not change its real character.

If you think too little very likely you will talk too much.

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