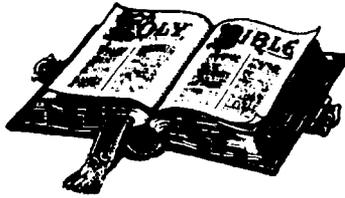


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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

OCTOBER, 1997

Number 10

---

## "KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE"

In addressing his son, Solomon said: **"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."** (Proverbs 4:23).

The *heart* under consideration here is not the physical organ that pumps blood through our arteries and veins. It is that part of man that *thinks*, (cf. Prov. 23:7; Mt. 9:4; 15:19; Acts 8:22), *reasons*, (cf. Mk. 2:6; Luke 5:22), *understands*, (cf. 1 Kings 3:7-12; Mt. 15:13), *believes*, (cf. Romans 10:9-10; Luke 8:12), *trusts*, (Psa. 112:7; Prov. 3:5; 28:26; Prov. 31:11), *loves*, (Dt. 6:4-5; Mt. 22:36-37), *condemns* or *condemns not*, (1 John 3:20-21), and that which we *obey from* or *with*, (cf. Romans 6:17-18; Psa. 119:69); *etc*:

The heart is subject to *evil* things as well as *good* things. Our actions are determined and shaped by our thinking. Jesus said, *"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye,*

*blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."* (Mark 7:21-23). In view of the fact that sin (wickedness, evil, as well as good; cf. Mt. 12:35) originates in the heart, each of us should be deeply concerned about what goes into our hearts.

Solomon said, **"*Keep thy heart with all diligence...*"** Our hearts must be *kept!* They must be carefully *guarded!* We must store up in our hearts things that are *true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report* (cf. Phil. 4:8). We must not allow *evil* things to enter our hearts. Meditating upon *evil* things will *defile* out hearts.

Solomon tells us *why* our hearts should be *kept* with **"all diligence."** He says, **"...For out of it are the issues of life."** Jesus said: **"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."** (Mt. 12:35).

(Continued on page 4)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS #581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of

Christ, meeting at 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, Alabama.

**CAROL R. SUTTON**

**Editor**

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

Second-class postage paid in Albertville, AL 35950

## MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 5)

In our last study we considered the question, "*IS THE SABBATH LAW STILL IN EFFECT?*" We studied six passages which indicate that the sabbath law is no longer in effect (or binding). They were Matthew 5:17-18; Colossians 2:14-17; Ephesians 2:14-16; Romans 7:4; Hebrews 7:12 and Galatians 3:24-25. Without question *the New Testament* teaches that *the law that God gave through Moses (including the ten commandments) to the Israelites was abrogated at the cross and is no longer in effect!* Let us continue our study of the sabbath question. VIII. "*IS THE SABBATH LAW STILL IN EFFECT?*" 7. In 2 Cor. 3:6-16 we have a discussion of the New Testament and the Old Testament. The Old Testament is referred as "*the letter*" and the New Testament is referred to as "*the spirit*". The Old Testament is spoken of as "*the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones*" and the New Testament is spoken of as "*the ministration of the spirit*". The Old Testament is referred to as "*the*

*ministration of condemnation*" and the New Testament as "*the ministration of righteousness*".

Throughout the passage we see a contrast between the two testaments (covenants). Please consider the following facts.

1. Paul (& others) were made "*ministers of the new testament!*" They were made not made ministers of "*the letter!*" They were made ministers of "*the spirit!*" The "*letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*" (Verse 6).

2. The "*ministration of death*" was written and engraven in stones. (Verse 7). We read in Deut. 4:2 that Moses told Israel that the Lord declared unto them His covenant, which He commanded them to perform, "*...even ten commandments: and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.*" Obviously this identifies that which was written and engraven in stones that was the "*ministration of death*" as God's covenant *the ten commandments!* (Also cf. Exodus 32:15-16).

3. "*The ministration of death*" (the Old Covenant including the ten commandments) was "*glorious, so that the children of Israel could not steadfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away*" but "*the ministration of righteousness*" does "*exceed in glory*". In fact, in comparison to the glory of the "*ministration of righteousness*" the Old Covenant ("*the ministration of condemnation*") "*had no glory*". The glory of the New Covenant far excels or surpasses the glory of the Old Covenant. (Verses 7-10; cf. Exodus 34:27-35).

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

4. In contrasting the Old and New Testaments, Paul said: "*For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.*" (Verse 11). NOTE: Paul is teaching that the Old Covenant (spoken of as the "*ministration of condemnation*", etc.) is "*done away*" and that the New Testament (spoken of as the "*ministration of righteousness*", etc.) remains!

5. That which "*was glorious*" which was "*done away*" was the "*ministration of death, written and engraven in stones*". It was the Old Covenant (including the ten commandments) that God gave to Israel through Moses when his face shone as recorded in Exodus 34:27-35. Paul referred to this in 2 Cor. 3.

6. The "*letter*", (the "*ministration of death*", the "*ministration of condemnation*", "*that which was glorious*", the "*old testament*", "*Moses*") was "*done away*" (i.e., "*abolished*")! (Cf. 2 Cor.3: 6-17)

7. The "*spirit*", (the "*ministration of the spirit*", the "*ministration of righteousness*" (the "*new testament*") "*remaineth*"!

It is clear from a study of 2 Cor. 3:6-18 that the Old Covenant (including the command to the Israelites to "*Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy*" in Exodus 20:8) is *not* binding on Christians today!

Now let us consider some syllogistic reasoning on the ten commandment law given by Moses to Israel and Sabbath keeping.

#### SYLLOGISMS

1. The ten commandments, written and engraven in stones, were

glorious! (For proof see Exodus 32:16; Deut. 4:13; 2 Cor. 3:7).

2. But that which was glorious was *done away*! ( See 2 Cor. 3:7, 11).

3. **Therefore:** The ten commandments were *done away*! (A logical conclusion.)

1. The ten commandments were *done away*! (Already proven).

2. But the *sabbath* command is one of the ten commandments! (See Exodus 20:8).

3. **Therefore:** The sabbath command was *done away*!

1. The covenant that God made with Israel when He brought them out of Egypt was (or included) the ten commandments! (For proof see Deut. 4:13; 10:1-5; 1 Kings 8:9).

2. But God *took away* the covenant He made with Israel when He brought them out of Egypt. (See Hebrews 8:6-13; 10:9).

3. **Therefore:** God *took away* the ten commandments (one of which is the sabbath command)!

1. We are *dead* to the law that said, "*Thou shalt not covet*". (For proof see Romans 7:4-7).

2. But the ten commandment law said, "*Thou shalt not covet*". (See Exodus 20:17).

3. **Therefore:** We are *dead* to the ten commandment law!

1. We are **dead** to the *ten commandment law*! (Proven above).

2. But the *sabbath command* is in the *ten commandment law*! (See Exodus 20:8).

3. **Therefore:** We are *dead* to the *sabbath command*!

(To be continued)

# "KEEP THY HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE"

(Continued from page 1)

Solomon tells us that the *issues* of life *come out of* or *proceed from* the heart! We learn the same principle from the statement of Jesus. He tells us that *good* things *come out of* or *proceed from* the "good treasure" of the heart! We have "good treasure" in the heart only if we store up *good* things. When we store up *evil* things in the heart we have "evil treasure" in the heart. The issues of life will be good *only* if we can draw from the "good treasure" within the heart. If we store up "evil treasure" in our hearts we will only draw *evil* things out of our hearts. What are you putting in your heart? *Good* things? *Evil* things! You can store up only what you put in your

heart! Are you carefully *guarding* your heart? Do you watch "*filthy*" movies? It matters not whether they are watched in public or in the privacy of your home? What about "*horror*" movies? Do you listen to "*suggestive*" music? Do you listen to *lies* others tell? What about *unproven accusations* against others? Do you meditate on the *sordid details* of *rape* or *murder*? What about other *evil* things such as *homosexuality*, *adultery*, *drunkenness*, *elicit drugs*, *malice*, *envy*, etc?

Are you *keeping your heart with all diligence*?

GOSPEL MEETINGS  
Jennings, FL, Nov. 9-14, 1997

---

## SENTENCE SERMONS

Worry about tomorrow pulls tomorrow's clouds over today's sunshine. (Cf. Mt. 6:34).

\*\*\*\*\*

The life of a Christian is not a 100-yard dash. It is a marathon. (Cf. Phil. 3:13-14).

\*\*\*\*\*

A successful man is one who can properly use the bricks others have thrown at him.

\*\*\*\*\*

If this world does not satisfy, perhaps we were made for another world.

\*\*\*\*\*

The difficulties of life should make us better, not bitter! (Cf. 2 Cor. 12:7-10).

---

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
4777 U.S. Highway 431  
Albertville, Alabama 35950

(Second-class postage)