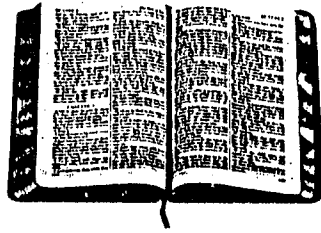


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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IS GOD PLEASED WITH DIVISIONS!

During the personal ministry of Jesus Christ on earth, in anticipation of His church, He said: **"...and they shall hear my voice: and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."** (John 10:16). A short time before His death, in His prayer to the Father as recorded in John 17, Jesus prayed for the *unity* of His disciples. In verses 20-21 He said: **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.** NOTE: Without question, Jesus *desired* and *prayed for* the *unity* of His disciples!

We learn from John 11:51-52 **"that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad."** Paul affirms in Eph. 2:16 that Christ died **"that he might reconcile both (Jew**

& Gentile-CRS) unto God in one body by the cross..." NOTE: Christ did *not* want Jews and Gentiles in *different* bodies (or churches). He died that they might be reconciled to God in *one* body! *United in Christ in His body, the church!*

Works of the flesh such as *hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies* and *envyings* are works of the flesh that will prompt, promote and insist on divisions! (Cf. Gal. 5:20). *Sinful!*

Without doubt, the *divisions* of denominationalism and religious groups of all stripes and colors *are sinful!* The *unity for which He prayed and died can be had only in Christ and His body, the church!*

In dealing with the problem of *divisions* Paul said: **"...I beseech you...that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment."** (1 Cor. 1:10) (Cont'd on p. 4)

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Editorial---

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (NO.11)

It has been shown in past studies that the law that required the Israelites to keep the sabbath day holy was *provisional* and *temporary*. There is no Scriptural *proof* that God ever planned for *Christians* to keep the law that He gave to the children of Israel after they came out of Egypt. The sabbath law was given to a *specific* people for *specified* reasons. When it had fulfilled its purpose *it ceased to be binding*. When the law that required sabbath keeping was fulfilled, *it was no longer in force*. (Cf. Jer. 31:31-34; Heb.8:6-13; 7:11-19; 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Rom. 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:6-17; Col. 2:14-17).

In our study four months ago we began a consideration of some arguments made by sabbath keepers in an effort to show that sabbath keeping is *binding* on Christians today. We have shown that Scriptural *proof* is lacking. Let us now continue our study.

**SOME ARGUMENTS FOR
SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED**

20. "THERE WERE TWO DISTINCT LAWS GIVEN TO THE ISRAELITES. ONE WAS 'THE TEN COMMANDMENTS' CALLED THE 'LAW OF GOD' AND THE OTHER WAS 'THE OLD LAW OF PARDON WHICH WAS THE' LAW OF MOSES'. THE 'LAW OF MOSES' (OLD LAW OF PARDON WITH ITS SACRIFICES, ETC.) WAS NAILED TO THE CROSS BUT 'THE LAW OF GOD' (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS) WAS NOT NAILED TO THE CROSS."

REPLY:

(1) The above argument is *assumed* and *asserted*, but it is *not proven* by the Scriptures! *Proof* that *two distinct laws* were given at Sinai to the Israelites must be provided for the argument to be valid. We can read "**For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**" (Heb. 8:7). In Heb. 9:15-16 we can read about "**the new testament**" and "**the first testament**" (or covenant) and in Heb. 8:8-13 we read about "**new covenant**" and an "**old.**" Obviously, the *first covenant* and the *old* were one and the same. The "*new testament*" and "*the second*" are one and the same.

(2) There were two distinct testaments (covenants) given but for two distinct *dispensations*! Nearly two thousand years ago the Hebrew writer (speaking of the first covenant) said: "**Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.**" (8:13). Contextually, reference is made to the covenant that the Lord made with the Israelites when he took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. The "**new**

testament (covenant)" is the **"second"**. It is in contrast to *"the first"* which is *"old!"* It is not the *"third!"* It is in contrast to *"the first"* which is *"old!"* It is not *"the third"*. It is *"the second!"* NOTE: If there were *"two distinct laws"* (or testaments) given at Sinai to the Israelites, then the New Testament of Jesus Christ would not be *"the second"* but it would be *"the third!"*

(3) The idea that *"the ten commandments"* was called *"the law of God"* (*the Lord*) in contrast with the old law of pardon with its sacrifices, etc. being called *"the law of Moses"* is merely an assumption and assertion without *Scriptural proof!*

(4) The fact that sometimes *"the ten commandments"* were called *the law of God (or the Lord)* does not mean that the other commandments and provisions given by the Lord are not a part of *"the law of the Lord."*

(5) The fact that sometimes *"the ten commandments"* may be called *the law of Moses* does not mean that the other commandments and provisions given by Moses are not a part of *"the law of Moses."*

(6) *God gave the law of Moses!* Ezra **"was a ready scribe in the law of Moses, which the Lord God of Israel had given..."** (Ezra 7:6; (Cf. Neh. 8:1). NOTE: The law was called the law of Moses because *God gave it through Moses!*

(7) Without question, *the law that Moses gave was God's law!* Nehemiah 10:29 mentions **"...God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God..."** We also read in 2 Chron. 34:14 that **"...Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the Lord given by Moses."** NOTE: God's law that Moses gave did not

originate with Moses. *It originated with God!*

(8) Without question *Moses gave the ten commandments!* In Mark 7:10 Jesus said: **"For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother..."** Observe the fact that Jesus did not say, *"For God said. Honour thy father and thy mother"* but He said: **"For Moses said, Honour..."** NOTE: This was one of the ten commandments that Moses gave!

In John 7:19 Jesus said: **"Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to kill me?"** NOTE: In going about to kill Jesus they were going about to violate the law that said: **"Thou shalt not kill."** That was one of the ten commandments and Moses gave the law that said that! Jesus said so!

(9) A careful reading of Nehemiah 8 will indicate that the expressions **"the book of the law of Moses,** (v. 1), **"the law"** (v. 2, 7, 9, 13), **"the book of the law"** (v. 3), **"the book"** (v. 5), **"the book in the law of God"** (v.8), **"the law which the Lord had commanded by Moses"** (v. 14), and **"the book of the law of God"** (v. 18) are used interchangeably; therefore, *referring to the same law!*

(10) The **"law of the Lord"** contained information about **"burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts..."**, *sacrifices*, etc. and *acts of Josiah and his goodness!* (Cf. 2 Chron. 31:3; 35:36 & Lk. 2:23-24).

No, God did not give two distinct laws to Israel at Sinai! The idea that He did is born of human desire. God's will is expressed in His Word!

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 1)

Paul thought that there should be *no divisions* among the saints and that all saints should *speak the same thing* and *be of the same mind* and the *same judgment*. NOTE: This would indicate that *it is possible for brethren to speak the same thing and be of the same mind and judgment!* Why do some people claim that it is *impossible* for saints to be united, to speak the same thing and be of the same mind and same judgment? saying, "**I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ**", Paul asked them a simple rhetorical question, "**Is Christ divided?**" (See 1 Cor. 1:12-13). I ask you the same question now. Is Christ

divided? *Of course not!* Then why are those who claim to be Christians divided? Is it because we *cannot be united* in Christ? Or is it because we *do not understand* the will of Christ? Or is it because of a *lack of faith*? Or is it because we have *no sincere desire* to be united? Or is it because of a *love for division*? Regardless of the cause, *God is not pleased with divisions!*

Let us examine our *hearts* and search our *motives* and be sure we are not pleased with divisions! (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Pisgah, West Chester, Ohio--June 7-12, 1998
East Albertville, June 21-26, 1998-Charles Maples
East Albertville, Nov. 15-20, 1998,-Connie Adams

SENTENCE SERMONS

Some people love a cheerful giver as long as they are on the receiving end.

* * * * *

The more we love the easier it is for us to forgive!

* * * * *

If God tells us to do it, it is certainly *possible* to do it!

* * * * *

When a church quits struggling it dies!

* * * * *

It is easier to preach the truth than it is to practice the truth. We must do both!

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