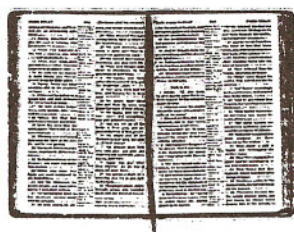


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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SIN – WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

I. WHAT IS SIN?

A. **"Sin is the transgression of the law"** of God. (1 John 3:4)

B. **"All unrighteousness is sin..."** (1 John 5:17)

C. **"The thought of foolishness is sin..."** (Prov. 24:9)

D. To know to do good and not do it is sin! James 4:17 says: **"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin"**! NOTE: If a person knows to do good and has the opportunity and the ability to do good, but refuses to do it, to him it is sin!

II. WHAT SIN DOES?

A. Sin *deceives*! Heb. 3:13 says: **"But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."** Eve was deceived by the serpent. (See Gen. 3:13).

B. Sin *ladens*! (See 2 Tim. 3:6).

C. Sin *holds*! (See Prov. 5:22).

D. Sin *destroys good*! (See Eccl. 9:18)

E. Sin *destroys love*! (See Mt. 24:12)

F. Sin *destroys the conscience*! (See 1 Tim. 4:2).

G. Sin *rules & enslaves*! (See John 8:34)

H. Sin *consumes*! (See Num. 16:26).

I. Sin *brings reproach*! (See Prov. 14:34).

J. Sin *brings shame*! (See Hosea 4:7).

K. Sin *separates one from God*! (See Isaiah 59:1-2).

L. Sin *alienates a person from God*! (See Col. 1:21).

M. Sin *brings death*! **"The wages of sin is death..."** (Rom. 6:23). NOTE: Sin results in untold suffering and misery here and eternal suffering in eternity!

NOTE: In view of the above truths about sin we must conclude that sin is *heinous*! It is *atrocious*! It is a *blight* and *curse* on mankind!

FURTHER NOTE: ***Sin is universal!*** (See Eccl. 7:20; 1 Kgs. 8:46; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 3:22; 1 John 1:10; 1 John 1:8, etc.)

You can be forgiven of all your sins if have an obedient faith!

(CRS)

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Editorial...

DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE? (Part 2)

In November, 2008 issue of *The Instructor*, we began discussing the question: "DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE?" First we answered the question, "WHAT IS OBEDIENCE" from the standpoint of the meaning of the word obedience.

It was shown that the Scriptures clearly teach that "OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED."

We then began a consideration of "WHAT CONSTITUTES DISOBEDIENCE?" We showed that "Partial Obedience is Disobedience" and that "Substitution is also Disobedience." Let us continue our study of:

IV. SOME THINGS THAT CONSTITUTE DISOBEDIENCE?

A. "Partial Obedience" is Disobedience! See Saul in 1 Sam.

15:1-28.

B. "Substitution" is Disobedience!

(1) Moses. See Numbers 20:1-12; Psalms 106:32-33. NOTE: Today, we must be careful not to substitute for what the Scriptures teach. Another example of substitution (we did not study this one last time) is:

(2) Jereboam. (Read 1 Kings 12:26-33). Although God was the **true object of worship**, Jereboam made two calves of gold and said, "...**behold thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And he set the one in Bethel, and the other put he in Dan. And this thing became a sin: for the people went to worship before the one, even unto Dan.**" (Verses 28-30). NOTE: Jereboam *substituted* two idols for God who was and is the *proper object of worship*.

The *proper place of worship* was *Jerusalem* and Jereboam *substituted* Bethel and Dan for the place that God had designated. (Read verses 26-30).

Although God had designated that *the priests were to be of the tribe of Levi*, Jereboam "...**made priests of the lowest of the people which were not of the sons of Levi.**" (Verse 31). So we see that *he changed the priesthood by substitution!*

The Lord had ordained that the Israelites observe "the feast of tabernacles" on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and he gave instructions concerning it in Lev. 23:33-41. This is what God ordained. We read that

"Jereboam ordained a feast in the eighth month, on the fifteenth day of the month, like unto the feast that is in Judah, and he offered upon the altar. So did he in Bethel, sacrificing unto the calves that he had made: and he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places which he had made. So he offered upon the altar which he had made in Bethel the fifteenth day of the eighth month, even in the month which he had devised of his own heart; and ordained a feast like unto the children of Israel: and he offered upon the altar and burnt incense." (Verses 32-33). *Jereboam substituted the eighth month, "even in the month which he had devised of his own heart" for the seventh month that God had ordained.*

In the actions of King Jereboam as given in the account above, he was guilty of changing the *object of worship* by substituting his two gold calves to be worshipped instead of the *Holy One of Israel*. *This substitution was disobedience!*

He was guilty of substituting Bethel (and Dan) for Jerusalem as *the place of worship*. *This substitution was disobedience!*

Jereboam changed the priesthood by making priests of the lowest of the people. God had said that only those who were of the sons of Levi could serve as priests. *This substitution was disobedience!*

Jereboam was guilty of devising a time of his own heart to have a feast like unto the feast that was in Judah. *This substitution was disobedience!*

NOTE: V. 30 says "**And this thing** (referring specifically to setting up the calves of gold in Bethel and Dan) **became a sin.**" 1 Kings 13:34 says: "**And this thing** (referring specifically to Jeroboam making priests of the lowest of the people & becoming a priest himself) **became sin unto the house of Jereboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.**"

NOTE: We must conclude from this that *substitution is disobedience and it is sinful!*

Today, we must not be guilty of sinning by substituting something for what God has said. For example, we must not:

(1) Substitute sprinkling or pouring for baptism. (See Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; John 3:23; Acts 8:35-39; etc.)

(2) Substitute another day of the week for the first day of the week as the time we come together to break bread, (see Acts 20:7), or when we lay-by-in-store (see 1 Cor. 16:2).

OBSERVATION: Apply this principle to *any thing that is God's will for us*. ***We have no right to substitute for it!***

C. "Addition" is Disobedience!

(1) The scribes and Pharisees disobeyed the commandments of God by adding the traditions of the elders such as the washing of hands before eating bread and the "**washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables.**" (See Mk. 7:1-13; Mt. 15:1-9). *Addition is disobedience!*

(2) Judaizing teachers disobeyed God by adding "circumcision" to the gospel! (See Acts 15:1-5; Gal. 5:1-4; etc.)

(3)When denominational names are added to the name "Christian", play is added to "sing", various money raising schemes are added to NT teaching, human organizations are added to the church (local), social, recreational & entertainments projects are added to the work of the church, etc., *it is disobedience!*

OBSERVATION: Read Lk. 4:4; 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:11; Dt. 4:2; 12:32; Joshua 1:7; Prov. 30:5-6; Jas. 1:25; 2:12, Rev. 22:18; etc. and be impressed with the fact that *we must not add to the Word of God!*

NOTE: It is obvious from the reading of these and many other passages of Scriptures that God does not accept "partial obedience", "substitution" or "addition" as *acceptable obedience!* In fact, *they constitute disobedience!*

(To be continued) (CRS)

AS WE CLOSE OUT THIS YEAR

As we come to the close of this year (2008), it is hard to believe that another year has past.

As we conclude this year that the Lord has so richly blessed us with, we also complete 45 years of publishing THE INSTRUCTOR.

We are very grateful to our Heavenly Father for giving us the means and strength to enable us to carry on this work. We have sent forth THE INSTRUCTOR each month with the desire that some who read it will be instructed in the way of truth and choose to walk in it.

It has been our prayer that it might enlighten and strengthen and encourage those who are already walking in the way of truth to continue to do so. May God richly bless each of you! (CRS)

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You are the only person on this earth who can use your ability.

Although pride is tasteless, odorless and sizeless, it is very difficult to swallow.

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It takes effort to go to the top of the hill where the best view is.

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