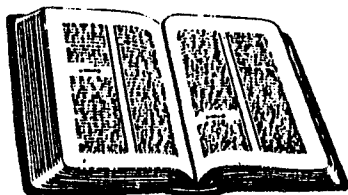


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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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## ***WE SHOULD BE WATCHING!***

The word "watch" is found in the Scriptures about 90 times. It suggests the idea of "caution, carefulness, giving close attention to". Watching is essential to our spiritual welfare and our eternal salvation.

Moses missed Canaan because he failed to watch. (Cf. Num. 20:1-12; Deut. 34:1-4). Samson's failure to watch allowed the Philistines to overcome him. (Cf. Judges 16). David was ensnared by sin and gave the enemies of Jehovah an occasion to blaspheme because he failed to watch. (Cf. Samuel. 11 & 12). Solomon was led into idolatry because of his failure to watch. (Cf. 1 Kings 11:3-4).

During His personal ministry on earth, *Jesus told the APOSTLES to watch!* He admonished them saying: **"Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."** (Mt. 26:41; also see Mt. 24:42-44).

**DISCIPLES are told to watch! !**  
Cor. 16:13 says: **"Watch ye, stand**

**fast in the faith, quit ye like men, be strong."** In 1 Thess. 5:6 Paul exhorted, saying: **"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; let us watch and be sober."** Peter warned disciples, saying: **"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."** (1 Pet. 5:8).

**EVANGELISTS are told to watch!** In 2 Timothy 4:5 Paul exhorted Timothy, saying: **"But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."** It is absolutely essential that *evangelists* give close attention!

**ELDERS are told to watch!** To elders Paul warned, saying: **"Take heed....Therefore watch..."** (Acts 20:28-31). Elders are to *watch for the souls of others! A serious obligation!* It must not be taken lightly!

Jesus said: **"And what I say unto you, I say unto all, watch."** (Mark 13:37). (CRS)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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*Editorial---*

## MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 9)

In our past studies we have endeavored to show 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 intended 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; etc.

In our study two 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. Let us now continue our study.

## SOME ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

12. "THE ISRAELITES WERE KEEPING THE SABBATH IN EGYPT BECAUSE EXODUS 5:5 SAYS (Pharaoh speaking) "...ye make them rest from their burdens."

### REPLY:

(1) The word from which *rest* comes simply means "*to cause to cease, to hinder, to forbid*" according to the "Hebrew And English Lexicon" by Gesenius. It does **not mean** that they were observing the sabbath! They had simply quit their work or ceased from their **burdens**. The context clearly indicates this. Read it carefully.

(2) A close reading of Ezekiel 20:10-12 will show that God did *not* give the Israelites His sabbaths until *after* they were brought out of Egypt.

(3) A study of Neh. 9:13-14 and Exodus 16 through 20 is further proof that they were *not* keeping the sabbath in Egypt!

(4) Even if the Israelites did keep the sabbath in Egypt this would *not prove* that the sabbath law is *binding on Christians*!

13. "GOD'S PEOPLE OF ALL NATIONALITIES, WHETHER JEW OR GENTILE WERE DUTY BOUND TO OBSERVE THE SABBATH BECAUSE ISAIAH 56:6 SAYS: 'Also the son of the stranger (Gentile-CRS) that join themselves to the Lord...that keepeth the sabbath...'"

### REPLY

(1) Of course the Gentiles who "**joined themselves to the Lord**" (accepted "the Jews' religion") *kept* the sabbath, but this fact does *not prove* that the sabbath is binding on "*Christians*!"

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(2) We learn from Exo. 12:48 that the "stranger" that would sojourn with the Israelites and **"keep the passover of the Lord"** was told to **"...let all his males be circumcised...for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof."** (Also read and consider Exo. 20:10 & Ezekiel 44:9.) NOTE: It is obvious that when Gentiles **"joined themselves to the Lord"** they ceased being Gentiles and became proselytes to the Jewish religion. They then would keep the sabbath, but *not* then as Gentiles, but as Jews (or as Jewish proselytes). **"The stranger within thy gates"**, not those *"without thy gates"* were the ones who were required to keep the sabbath, etc. FURTHER NOTE: The fact that God required *the stranger* who would sojourn with the Israelites to *be circumcised* does not prove that *circumcision is binding on Christians!*

(3) I know of no passage that required the Gentiles, *as Gentiles*, to keep the sabbath day holy! Even if we could find such a passage that would not *prove* that the sabbath is *binding on Christians!*

14. "IN MARK. 2:27-28 JESUS SAID: 'THE SABBATH WAS MADE FOR MAN, AND NOT MAN FOR THE SABBATH: THEREFORE THE SON OF MAN IS LORD ALSO OF THE SABBATH.' "

#### REPLY:

(1) Yes, Jesus said that but He did *not* say *"Therefore the sabbath law will be binding on Christians!"*

(2) Of course, the sabbath was made for man. In fact we learn as we study the Scriptures *what man* it was made for - the *Israelite!* It was made *known* to the Israelite *after* he came

out of Egypt! (Cf. Ezekiel 20:10-12; Neh. 9:13-14& Exodus 16 & 20).

(3) Contextually, Jesus was showing that their criticism of His disciples because they plucked ears of corn (and ate - Mt. 12:1) on the sabbath was improper because man was not made for the sabbath and that He (Jesus) was LORD even of the sabbath!

(4) Keep in mind that Jesus was living under the Old Covenant dispensation at the time He made the statement. There is nothing in His statement that *proves* that the sabbath would be *binding on Christians* under the New Testament dispensation!

15. "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE STANDARD OF RIGHT AND WRONG."

#### REPLY:

(1) An assertion based on assumption! No reliable *evidence* is given to prove this assertion!

(2) There is no Scriptural *proof* that the ten commandments as such were given prior to the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. We know they were not given to Adam and Eve. One of the ten commandments says **"Honour thy father and thy mother..."** (Exo. 20:12), but Adam and Eve had no **"father and mother"** they could honour.

...(3) Some of the sons of Kohath were told to not **".... touch any holy thing, lest they die."** (Num. 4:15). If a person had *"a familiar spirit"* or was a *"wizard"* he would be put to death. (Cf. Lev. 20:27). The one who would *"lie with a beast"* would be put to death. (Cf. Lev. 20:15).

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None of these things were a *part* of the ten commandments. However, they were a *part* of God's standard of right and wrong!

(4) The ten commandments were a *part* of (but not the *whole* of) God's standard of right and wrong! *Now* we are "*under the law to Christ!*" (Cf. 1 Corinthians 9:21).

16. "JESUS KEPT THE SABBATH."

**REPLY:**

...(1) We learn from Luke 4:16-21 "*...that as his custom was he (Jesus-ed.) went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read...*" NOTE: The fact that Jesus may have or *did* keep the sabbath does *not* mean that the sabbath law is *binding on Christians!*

(2) We learn from Luke 2:21 that

Jesus was *circumcised* the eighth day as as required under the law, but that does not mean that *circumcision is binding on Christians!*

(3) We learn from Luke 22:1-20 that Jesus observed the *Passover* with His disciples, but this does *not* prove that the *Passover* is *binding on Christians!*

(4) To understand why that Jesus *kept the sabbath, was circumcised and observed the Passover* we must consider the fact that He was "**made under the law.**" (Cf. Gal. 4:4). Jesus lived under the law that required *circumcision, the Passover and sabbath keeping*, but *Christians are not under that law!*

(To be continued)

**GOSPEL MEETINGS!** A series of Gospel Meetings will be conducted in **EAST ALBERTVILLE March 15-19, 1998** at 7:00 P.M. each evening except on the Lord's Day. Different speakers will preach! Plan to come! **TELL OTHERS!**

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## ***SENTENCE SERMONS***

We should stay sweet in sour places, cool in hot places and little in big places.

\* \* \* \* \*

A candle does not lose its light by lighting another candle.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is far better to forgive and forget than to resent and remember. (Cf. Luke 6:31)

\* \* \* \* \*

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength and joy.

\* \* \* \* \*

To be truly great we must be humble enough to be used as servants.

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