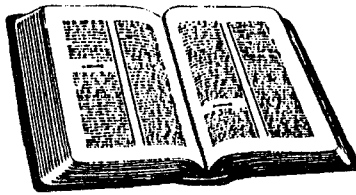


# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"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 IS ALWAYS SIN!***

In an effort to justify sin some people will claim that sin is not always sin. It seems that some think that it depends upon *who* is involved, the *circumstances* and the *motives as to whether or not sin is sin.*

Of course, all of us recognize that *motives* are important and that *circumstances* often influence us in what we do. However, a knowledge of *what* sin is should convince us that *sin is always sin!*

John tells us that **"Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."** (1 John 3:4). This settles it! *When a person transgresses the law of God he sins!*

A person may transgress God's law in open defiance and willful rebellion or through ignorance or weakness, but in each case that person is guilty of sin! Why? Because *he has transgressed God's law!*

A person may transgress God's law because of a desire to be rich or to gain popularity, but it is still sinful!

A person may transgress God's law in an effort to help other people, but it is still sinful! (Cf. Rom. 3:8).

A person may transgress God's law in an effort to keep peace in the church, among friends or relatives, but it is still sinful!

A person may transgress God's law in an effort to provide for his family, but it is still sinful!

A person may transgress God's law in an effort to keep his spouse from divorcing him, but it is still sinful!

A person may transgress God's law by marrying a "put away" person in order to have companionship, but it is still sinful! (Cf. Mt. 5:32)

A person may transgress God's law in order to gratify the desires of the flesh that he might "feel good and be happy", but it is still sinful!

A transgression of God's law in some activity may be popular, attractive and appealing, but it is sin!

Calling evil good and good evil does not change the fact that evil is sin! Regardless of *who* does it or *why*, *sin is always sin!* (CRS)

# THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial---

## MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 8)

In our past studies we have clearly shown that the law that required the children of Israel to keep the sabbath holy was provisional and temporary. There is no Scriptural *proof* that God ever intended for *Christians* to keep the law that God gave to the Israelite 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. Hebrews 7:11-19; 8:6-13; 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Romans 7:1-7; Col. 2:14-17; etc.).

In our study last month we began an examination of some **ARUGMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING**. We examined five arguments that are sometimes made in an effort to prove that the sabbath is binding on Christians today. Before continuing, here is one additional thought about the argument that **"The sabbath was observed by Adam."** If he keep the

sabbath it was not because it was one of the *ten* commandments. He did *not* keep the *ten* commandments! Adam *could not* have kept all *ten* commandments because he had *no father and mother to honor* as required by the fifth commandment. We must conclude that the *ten* commandments were *not given to Adam!* Let us now continue our study.

SOME ARGUMENTS FOR  
SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

6. "GOD BLESSED THE  
SABBATH DAY."

### REPLY:

(1) Yes, God *blessed* the sabbath according to Gen. 2:3 and Exo. 20:11. However, this does *not* prove that Christians should *keep* the sabbath day holy as God required the Israelites to do. We should not assume and assert that it does!

(2) Referring to Potiphar Gen. 39:5 says; **"...The Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house and in the field."** However, this does *not* prove that Potiphar will be saved eternally. Neither does it prove that God has blessed your house.

7. "GOD HALLOWED OR  
SANCTIFIED THE SABBATH  
DAY."

### REPLY:

(1) There are a number of things that are spoken of as being hallowed or sanctified. Here are some of them: the *tabernacle and vessels* (Exo. 40:9; Lev. 8:10), the *firstborn* (Numbers 3:13; 8:17), the *temple* (1 Kings 9:3), *censers* (Numbers 16:37), the *fiftieth year* (Lev. 25:10), and *Aaron and his garments* (Exo. 19:21).  
NOTE: The fact that these things

were hallowed or sanctified does *not* prove that we as Christians should provide, build and use them as they were used under the law! Is there any Sabbatarian who believes we should?

(2) Yes, God hallowed or sanctified the sabbath according to Exo. 20:11 and Gen. 2:3. However, this does *not* prove that *Christians* should keep the sabbath holy anymore than the fact that He sanctified the other things mentioned above *proves* that we should provide, build and use those things in worship to God!

8. "GOD REFERRED TO THE SABBATH AS 'MY HOLY DAY'".

**REPLY:**

(1) The fact that God referred to the sabbath as "**my holy day**" (in Isaiah 58:13) under the Old Covenant for the Israelites does *not* prove that the sabbath is *God's holy day* under the New Covenant for *Christians*!

(2) It is also a fact that under the Old Covenant that God referred to "**...my holy things, in the most holy place...**" (Ezekiel 44:13). However, this does *not* prove that those things that were God's holy things under the First Covenant are God's holy things under the New Covenant and that *Christians* ought to recognize them as being God's holy things now and use them as such!

(3) Things that were considered "**holy**" and things that were considered "**most holy**" under the Old Covenant should *not* be so recognized and used today unless Christ authorized such in the New Testament! We should "**speak**" and "**do**" as they that "**shall be judged by the law of liberty**"! (James 2:12).

9. "THE SABBATH WAS TO BE OBSERVED 'THROUGHOUT THEIR GENERATIONS'".

**REPLY:**

(1) Yes, the sabbath was to be observed "**throughout their generations**" according to such passages as Exodus 31:13-16. Please note that the antecedent of "*their*" is "*the children of Israel*." (See verse 16). In view of this fact we can clearly see that the *children of Israel* were to observe the sabbath throughout *their* generations!

(2) Aaron was to make an atonement with animal blood for a sin offering once a year *throughout their generations*! (cf. Exodus 30:10). NOTE: Does this fact prove that *Christians* today should be making an atonement with animal blood for a sin offering once a year? *Of course not!*

(3) Incense was to be burned before the Lord *throughout their generations*! (Cf. Exodus 30:7-8). QUESTION: Does this prove that Christians should be burning incense before the Lord continually as the Israelites did? *Of course not!*

(4) The children of Israel were told to make "**fringes on the borders of their garments throughout their generations**". (Cf. Numbers 15:37). QUESTION: Does this prove that *Christians* should make fringes on the borders of their garments today? *Of course not!*

(5) It should be easily seen by every honest person that the fact that the Israelites were to keep the sabbath holy throughout their *generations* does *not* prove that the sabbath law is binding on Christians!

(Continued on page 4).

(Continued from page 3)

# 10. "THE SABBATH LAW WAS A PERPETUAL COVENANT".

## REPLY:

(1) Yes, according to Exodus 31:16 the *children of Israel* were "to observe the sabbath throughout their generations for a perpetual covenant." However, this does *not* prove that the sabbath is to be observed by *Christians* for a perpetual covenant!

(2) The priests' office would be Aaron's and his sons "for a perpetual statute" according to Exodus 29:9, but this was not intended to show that Aaron and his sons would be holding the office of priest in *the gospel age*!

(3) In Ezekiel 46:14 we read of "a meat offering continually by a perpetual ordinance unto the Lord". However, this is no evidence

or proof that Christians should be offering a meat offering continually today.

(4) The fact that the Levites were to be told that "**the field of the suburbs of their cities may not be sold; for it is their perpetual possession**" (Lev. 25:34) has absolutely nothing to do with whether or not *Christians* have a right to sell their possessions! We can see that clearly, can we?

# 11. "THE SABBATH WAS TO BE A SIGN FOREVER."

## REPLY:

Yes, according to Exo. 31:17 it is so stated! However, that passage says a sign between the *children of Israel* and God! Not a sign between *Christians* and God! The word *forever* as used here means "*age-lasting*." Also consider. Exodus 31:6.

(To be continued)

## SENTENCE SERMONS

If you will give God all the broken pieces, he can mend your broken heart.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some pray, not for wisdom, but that God will approve of their own wisdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

Your idea of what you ought to do and be may not be the same as God's.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." (Prov. 21:23)

\* \* \* \* \*

He who rules his spirit will be able to count down before blasting off.

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