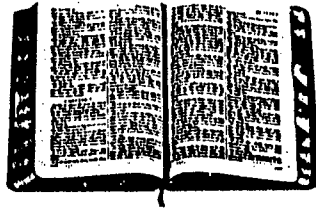


# THE INSTRUCTOR



***"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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## DOING GOOD

Many people feel no sense of responsibility to *do good*. In our efforts to serve God and do His Will we often overlook the responsibility we have to *do good*. *Doing good* is a principle that must not be overlooked. A long time ago Solomon said: **"Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee."** (Proverbs 3:27-28). The Psalmist said: **Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell forever more** and **"Trust in the Lord, and do good..."**(37:27 & 37:3). We can see from the foregoing passages that the principle of *doing good* prevailed during the days of David and Solomon.

In addressing His disciples in Luke 6:27 and 35 Jesus said: **"...do good to them that hate you,"** and **"...but love ye your enemies and do good..."** (Also cf. Mt. 5:44). NOTE: It is not always easy to *do good* to those who hate us and those who are our enemies, but we must respect and obey the injunctions of our Lord and Master!

In 1 Peter 3:10-11 we read: **"For he who will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."** NOTE: Blessings will come to those who (among other things) *do good!*

A long time ago the prophet Amos warned the Israelites to **"Seek good, and not evil"** and to **"Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate..."**. (5:14-15). NOTE: They were guilty of various sins and stood in need of *repentance!*

*The word of God* (as revealed in the Scriptures) must be our *standard of what is good*. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17). It is **"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter."** (Isa. 5:20). We are *not* able to direct our own steps. (Cf. Jer. 10:23). God's ways and thoughts are much higher than ours. (Cf. Isa. 55:8-9).

***To do good we must follow truth as revealed in the Scriptures!*** Let us **"be ready to every good work."** (Titus 3:1). (CRS)

## THE INSTRUCTOR

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CARROL RAY SUTTON  
Editor

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 U.S. Highway 431, Albertville, AL 35950.

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## Editorial...

### MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 13)

In our past articles we have shown from the Scriptures that the law that required the *Israelites* to keep the sabbath day holy was *provisional and temporary*. There is no Scriptural *proof* that the LORD ever intended for *Christians* to keep the law that He gave to the *Israelites* after they came out of Egypt. The sabbath day was given to a *specific* people for *specified* reasons. When that law 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; Hebrews 8:6-13; 7:11-19; 9:16-17; 10:9-10; Romans 7:1-7; 2 Cor. 3:6-17; Col. 2:14-17; Gal. 3:23-27; Col. 2:14-17; etc.

In our last six studies we have been examining 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. *Assumptions* and *assertions* are not *proof*! Let us continue our study.

## ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

22. "THE PROPHET ISAIAH PROPHESED (42:21) THAT CHRIST WOULD "MAGNIFY THE LAW, AND MAKE IT HONOURABLE." "

### REPLY:

(1) The Sabbatarian who makes the above argument *assumes* and *asserts* his desired conclusion without *proving* his conclusion from the text! The conclusion he draws is that the *law* refers to the sabbath command and therefore Christians are obligated to keep the sabbath day holy! Of course, this conclusion does *not necessarily* follow. It is an *assumption* and an *assertion* without proof!

(2) Isaiah 42:21 says: "The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable." NOTE: This may or may not be a prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. *Assuming* that it is, let us consider the following. It is a fact that the text does *not specifically* mention either the sabbath command or Christians.

(3) The text *does say* that "...He will magnify the law, and make it honourable." However, the text does *not say* "He will magnify the sabbath law and make it honourable!" The text simply says "the law." Sabbatarians are quick to assume and *assert* that it is the sabbath law! *Proof* would be more in order! The text is simply saying that the Lord would *magnify* the law. He would *respect* and obey the law and encourage others to do likewise. He would do nothing to dishonour or desecrate the law.

(4) Jesus Christ "was made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons". (Gal. 4:4-5). He did *not* violate the Old Covenant. He did *not* transgress God's law. He kept the

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law! He *always* pleased the Father! No one could convict (convince) Jesus of sin! He was tempted, but He did not sin! (Cf. I John 3:3; John 8:29; 8:46; Heb. 4:15; 1 Peter 2:21-24). Yes, Jesus magnified *the law* (not merely a *part* of the law, but the *law*! and made it honourable in His own life and taught others to respect it in their own lives.

(5) The fact that Christ would magnify the law *does not prove* that Christians should keep the sabbath day holy any more than it *proves* that Christians should observe the Passover, practice circumcision, etc. QUESTION: Is "*the law*" binding on Christians today? Of course not!

23. "PSALM 111:7-8 SAYS '...ALL HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE SURE. THEY STAND FAST FOREVER AND EVER, AND ARE DONE IN TRUTH AND UPRIGHTNESS.' THIS INCLUDES THE COMMANDMENT TO KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY."

#### REPLY:

(1) This passage does *not* specifically mention the *sabbath* command. Neither does it mention any other *specific* commandment. The *sabbath* command is *not* suggested by either the text or the context any more than any other commandment of the Lord!

(2) The *text* says "***all his commandments are sure***" and ***stand fast forever and ever.***" Does this mean that *all* the commandments God ever gave anyone at anytime for any reason are binding on Christians today?

What about the command that God gave Noah *to build an ark* in Gen.6:14 or to Abraham *to offer Isaac* in Gen. 22:2 or to Moses *to speak to the rock* in Numbers 20:1-12 or to Joshua (& soldiers)*to compass the city of Jericho thirteen times* in

Joshua 6 or to the apostles *to tarry in Jerusalem till they were endued with power from on high* in Luke 24:49? Were any of these commandments *unsure*? Did they fail to *stand steadfast*? Of course not! Since they are *sure* and *stand fast* are they *binding* on Christians? *No! Neither is the sabbath command that God gave to Israel binding on Christians today!*

The fact that *all God's commandments are sure and stand fast forever and ever and are done in truth and uprightness* does not mean that *they all are binding on Christians*. All that God gave to Christians are binding on them!

23. "JESUS TAUGHT THE OBSERVANCE OF THE SABBATH DAY, BUT HE NEVER TAUGHT ANYONE TO KEEP THE OLD SACRIFICES OF THE LAW OF MOSES."

#### REPLY:

(1) The above argument is intended to make uninformed readers think that there were two distinct laws given to govern the Israelites. It is claimed that one law contained the ten commandments and the other law contained burning of incense, burnt offerings, sacrifices, feast days, circumcision, etc. It is further alleged that Jesus bound the ten commandment law on Christians, but he did *not* teach anyone to keep the law that contained the animal sacrifices, burnt offerings, etc. They claim that it was the one that was nailed to the cross. NOTE: This distinction is claimed, but the facts do *not* support it. For a fuller discussion of this argument please read again and study the article in THE INSTRUCTOR, April, 1998.

(2) The above argument *assumes* and *asserts* that Jesus never taught anyone to keep the sacrifices

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of the law of Moses. However, this statement is not true. The truth is that Jesus did teach others to observe the law that required sacrifices, etc.

In Mark 1:44 Jesus said to the leper whom He had healed: **"See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them."** Cf. Luke 5:14; Lev. 14).

Sacrifices as required by the law of the Lord were made for Jesus according to Luke 2:21-24. Jesus taught His disciples and others saying: **"The scribes Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do..."** (Mt. 22:2-3). QUESTION: Does the fact that

Jesus taught His disciples and others

to observe the teachings of the Law of Moses *prove* that the law of Moses is binding on Christians? Of course not! OBSERVATION: The fact that Jesus kept the sabbath and taught others to do so *does not prove* that the keeping of the sabbath is binding on Christians!

(3) The fact that Jesus taught others to offer sacrifices, etc. according to the Law of the Lord does not prove that the offering of sacrifices as required by the law is binding on Christians today! However, it is a fact that Jesus *did teach* others to offer sacrifices as required by the law! Those who say otherwise are simply wrong!

*No, the sabbath law is not binding on Christians!* (To be continued)

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## SENTENCE

## SERMONS

Be grateful for what you have, not regretful for what you do not have.

\* \* \* \* \*

We should live to learn but learn before it is too late to live.

\* \* \* \* \*

For success rules to work, you must work them.

\* \* \* \* \*

To serve God faithfully, you must bend your will as well as your knees.

\* \* \* \* \*

Learn, believe and obey God today because there may not be a tomorrow.

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