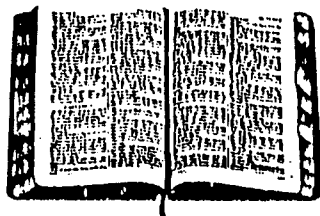


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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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" BE STRONG"

Prior to the Israelites crossing Jordan into Canaan, preparing them to face their enemies, Moses exhorted them saying: "**Be strong** and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." (Deut. 31:5). Then in verse 7, in view of the task before Joshua, Moses exhorted him saying, "**Be strong, and of good courage...**" After the death of Moses, the Lord admonished Joshua three times saying, "**Be strong...**" (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9). In verse 9 the Lord said: "**Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.**" NOTE: *This is a command!*

In 1 Kings 2:2 David charged Solomon, saying, "**I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and show thyself a man...**" (Also see 1 Chron. 28:9-10, 20).

Writing to the saints, the apostle Paul said, "Watch ye, stand fast in

the faith, quit ye like men, **be strong.**" (1 Cor. 16:13).

In Eph. 6:10 Paul exhorted the saints in Ephesus saying: "**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.**" (6:10). Earlier in his epistle he stated his desire for them "**to be strengthened with might by his (God's - CRS) Spirit in the inner man.**" (3:16). The saints in the first century needed this exhortation to *be strong*. Immaturity plagued the saints at Corinth at the time of Paul's letter to them. The sins of envying, strife, divisions, fornication, going to law with a brother and that before the unjust, abusing the Lord's Supper and, it seems, the misuse of spiritual gifts were sins of which they were guilty. (Cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 1:10-13; 5:1-13; 6:1-8; 11:23-34; 14:18-40).

Not only did the saints in the first century need this exhortation to "**be strong**" but also every saint since the first century has needed this exhortation! *Being strong is not an option. It is an essential!* Remember, the Lord says, "**Be strong.**" (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial...

MUST WE KEEP THE SABBATH TODAY? (No. 18)

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. 2:4-17; Gal. 3:23-27; Col. 2:14-17; etc.

In our last ten 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. The arguments set forth by Sabbatarians will not stand the test of

Scriptural examination. *Assumptions* and *assertions* are not *proof*! Let us continue our study.

ARGUMENTS FOR SABBATH KEEPING CONSIDERED

35. "THE TEN COMMANDMENTS CONSTITUTE THE COMPLETE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAN AND MAN, AND MAN AND GOD."

REPLY:

(1) Obviously, the above statement is made in an effort to get people to believe that Christians today should keep the sabbath day holy. Even *if* the argument were true in the dispensation covered by the Old Covenant, it would not necessarily *prove* that *Christians under the New Covenant would be bound to keep the sabbath holy*. Christians have never been under the Old Covenant. We are under law to Christ. (Cf. 1 Cor. (9:21). We are under the New Covenant (or Testament) of Jesus Christ! (Cf. Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1-4; 7:12; 7:19, 22; 8:6-13; 9:15-17; 10:9-10).

(2) I have read and heard the above statement made a number of times through the years. However, I have never read nor heard any *evidence* given that *proves* that such is the case. Assumptions and allegations are easily made, but stating such does not prove the *truthfulness of the statement*.

(3) *If* "the ten commandments constitute the complete relationship between man and man, and man and God," that means it covers the whole thing, doesn't it? Let me ask some questions. *Is it wrong (sinful) for a man to bear false witness for his neighbor? Is it wrong (sinful) for a man to bear false witness against his enemy?* NOTE: If your answer is yes, please show which of the ten commandments are violated when a man does either of these things.

(To be continued)

THE BODY OF CHRIST

Writing to the church of God which is at Corinth, the apostle Paul said, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Cor.12: 27). Regarding what God had done for Jesus he wrote, "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1:22-23). Again he said of Jesus, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." (Col. 1:18).

These scriptures show clearly that the church of Christ and the body of Christ are identical, that it is made up of Christians as the members of the body, and that Jesus is the head. As a man's mind controls his body in all its actions, so Christ must control every action of the church. He does this through the New Testament scriptures. That is why we must be so careful to teach and practice exactly what the Bible teaches.

ONE HEAD, ONE BODY

The physical man, to which the church is compared in this figure, has a body and a head. It would indeed be a monstrosity to have several bodies with only one head. There can be no more bodies than there are heads. Since there is only one spiritual head, Jesus Christ, there can be only one body, the church which is His.

"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body..." (1 Cor. 12:12-13)

DIVISIONS ARE SINFUL

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 in the same judgment. For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; Lest any should say that I had baptized in my own name." (1 Cor. 1:10-15).

"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" (1 Cor. 3:1-4).

It is a human tendency to exalt and follow men in religious matters. If this course is followed, differences will inevitably result. The only way to preserve the unity of the church is for all to "speak the same thing" and "be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." This can only be accomplished when all speak the things that Jesus, the head of the body, has spoken in the New Testament.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Failure to do this is sure to cause
"schism in the body." (1 Cor. 12:25)

WHICH DO YOU DO?

When people are taught that they
are wrong in some action or teaching,
they can:

1. Become angry and take it out
on the teacher.
2. Become angry and take it out
on the Lord.
3. Stir up trouble by becoming a
faction.
4. Run off to some other church.
5. Or, they can obey the Lord and
be right in his sight and have hope
of eternal life

Which do you do?
(Rex Henson)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On Thursday, November 12, Bro. Carrol Sutton returned home early to Albertville from a meeting in Oak Ridge, Tennessee due to a life threatening health problem. Brother Sutton was originally thought to have suffered a stroke, but upon further evaluation was diagnosed with possible encephalitis, an infection of the lining of the brain. At the time this bulletin went to press, Bro. Sutton was near the end of a ten day course of medication and his condition was much improved. We are thankful to God for the improvement that continues to be shown. We would like to thank those who have prayed for his recovery and ask that all the faithful brethren continue to do so. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16. (JLS)

SENTENCE SERMONS

Some Christians are like a wheelbarrow. They must be constantly pushed.

* * * * *

"Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not." Prov. 27:10.

* * * * *

"He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life." Prov. 13:3

* * * * *

Good intentions have never been accused of doing anything.

* * * * *

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Prov. 17:22.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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